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THE PARTHENON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 | VOL. 117 NO. 78 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

ONE 'BIG' NOMINATION

Big Sandy Superstore Arena up for ACM Venue of the Year

By ALEXANDRIA RAHAL
THE PARTHENON

For the last several years Huntington's Big Sandy Superstore Arena has been the destination for huge names in country music. The arena's success is now being recognized on a national level alongside legendary and iconic venues.

The SMG managing venue was recently nominated for an Academy of Country Music Award in the Venue of the Year category.

This is the first time the Big Sandy Superstore Arena has been nominated for an ACM Award. The award recognizes venues across the country that excel in producing, promoting and hosting country music concerts. Between December 2012 and November 2013, the Big Sandy featured country music sensations like Miranda

Lambert, Florida Georgia Line and Willie Nelson.

Other venues nominated in the same category include the historic Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn., Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Golden, Colo., the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion at Meadowbrook in Gilford, N.H. and the Amphitheater at The Wharf in Orange Beach, Ala.

General Manager Brian Sipe said it is a great honor, personally and professionally, to be nominated alongside such venues.

"While it will be really hard to beat the Opry in this category, it is a thrill to be in contention against them," Sipe said.

In recent years, Sipe has also received national recognition for his success in the entertainment venue industry. He was awarded the Venues Today

Generation Next award as well as the West Virginia State Journal's 40 Under 40 award.

Sipe, who started his career by selling tickets at the Giant Center Box Office in Hershey, Pa., said the key to success in the entertainment venue business is relationships and timing.

"Everyone wants shows to succeed, the artist, agent, manager, promoter and venue," Sipe said, "Everyone wants to know that the staff at the Big Sandy will do everything in their power to make sure their show is successful. When you get a reputation of being able to do that, they are more willing to trust you and keep coming back."

The arena's line up for spring and summer shows no signs of slowing down. The venue recently announced two major concerts featuring Hunter

Hayes on March 21 and Alice in Chains on May 16.

Along with concerts, the Big Sandy Superstore Arena also sponsors a number of conventions, trade shows, graduations, dances and sporting events for area organizations throughout the year.

To continue the success of the arena, Sipe said it's important not to settle for mediocrity.

"It's a challenge to constantly try to top yourself, but in the past few years I believe we have exceeded expectations on many fronts and that's ultimately what it is all about," Sipe said.

The 49th annual Academy of Country Music Awards will be broadcast live on CBS at 8 p.m. April 6 from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Alexandria Rahal can be contacted at rahal1@marshall.edu.



LEXI BROWNING | THE PARTHENON
Country music artist Justin Moore performs before a soldout crowd Saturday at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in Huntington.

2014 Winter Olympics

Norway passes Canada, US slides into fifth place

Medal standings, Feb. 11

				Total
1. Norway	4	3	4	11
2. Canada	4	3	2	9
3. Netherlands	3	2	3	8
4. Germany	3	1	0	4
5. United States	2	1	4	7
6. Switzerland	2	0	0	2
7. Russia	1	3	3	7
8. Austria	1	2	0	3
9. France	1	0	1	2
10. Belarus	1	0	0	1

Say it with tubas: Tuba Valentines go on sale in Smith Music Hall atrium

By RACHAEL ROBERSON
THE PARTHENON

Serenades from violinists and guitarists for Valentine's Day are a thing of the past, as tuba and euphonium players roam campus to deliver Tuba Valentines to students and faculty.

The Tuba Valentines, which consist of a musical valentine accompanied by a handmade card and carnation, can be purchased for \$10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday in the atrium of Smith Music Hall. The valentine will then be delivered from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Friday at a place of the buyers choosing.

Euphonium player, Emma Hensley, was excited at the opportunity to volunteer her musical talent for this 2nd annual Tuba Valentines event.

"It's funny and cheesy," Hensley said. "How many people actually get serenaded on Valentine's Day?"

Appointments are filling up as students and faculty schedule their valentine deliveries, including many returning customers from last years debut.

Without ruining any surprises, Hensley said several music department professors and bookstore employees have already reserved their tuba renditions of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" by Bing Crosby and "The Longest Time" by Billy Joel for their loved ones.

The quartets, comprised of two tuba players and two euphonium player, will approach Marshall University's significant others around campus every 10 minutes. Member of the quartet said they will travel up to one block from campus to bring a blush to

one of Marshall's many sweethearts. However, if lovers wish to buy a Tuba Valentine for someone who isn't on campus, the group will play for them via Skype.

"How many people actually get serenaded on Valentine's Day?"

-Emma Hensley, Euphonium player

George Palton, a tuba professor at Marshall, organized this event as a way for the back row of the band to get some front stage action. He said that other schools in the country do similar Valentine's Day events with different instruments, and he

wanted to bring that to Marshall. "For the recipient, it's unique and memorable," Palton said.

While the intent the valentine's gift may be to make someone feel special with a little laugh and some slight embarrassment, the proceeds of this event will help fund a special trip for the tuba-euphonium ensemble.

They will use these funds to travel to the International Tuba Euphonium Conference where they have been invited to perform.

Tuba and euphonium players signed up for the quartet in support of this fundraiser and for the chance to get some laughs from Marshall students and staff. The cards and the time of the musicians have all been donated to make this yearly event possible.

Rachael Roberson can be contacted at roberston14@marshall.edu.

Christian Center Board offers 'Lunch for a Buck'

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Campus Christian Center Board started a new event called Lunch for a Buck Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. The event brings churches and Marshall students, staff and faculty together a couple times a month for lunch on campus. Travie Ross, Campus Christian Center office manager,

said she was worried that the attendance would not be great but they actually had a great turn out for it being the first day of the event, with over 60 people in attendance. Churches around the area will take turns providing food for each lunch every other week. First United Methodist Church fixed the food for the first day of the event and according to Ross

they did more than just prepare the food.

"The members of the church fixed it and served it and cleaned it up afterwards," Ross said. Carley Boswell, freshman education major from Damascus Md., said she and her friends really enjoyed the lunch.

"My friends and I went to Lunch For a Buck in the fellowship hall to have something

different instead of just going to the dining halls," Boswell said. "It was really nice having an opportunity to eat somewhere else on campus." "The food was really good and filling for it only being a dollar," Boswell said. "I was really impressed and I had a great time." The event will be every other Tuesday throughout the spring semester.

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NEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Library campaign encourages students and faculty to read 150 books collectively

By **AMY MCCALLISTER-ETHEL**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University library staff will sponsor a launch party for a reading campaign Thursday at Drinko Library to encourage faculty and students to read 150 books or more during the course of 2014.

The campaign, "Marshall Reads 150-Plus" is a program sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, a project of the West Virginia Library Commission.

The launch party will take place from 2-4 p.m. Thursday in the atrium of the Drinko Library.

"Marshall University libraries encourages our patrons to read 150-plus books individually or by joining a team here at the library to read 150-plus books collectively," Sabrina Thomas, the digital learning librarian, said in a press release.

Teams can have any number of members, choose a name, select a leader to keep track of books

read by team members and register at the library. All participants will be eligible for a chance to win prizes.

Books can be on any topic or genre and can be in any format. They can be print, audio, e-book or downloadable text and can be from any source.

The prizes will be awarded at the end of the semester. The names of all the participants will be entered into a drawing. To be included in the drawing,

participants must submit a registration form by Tuesday, April 15. The form is available for download on the Marshall library's website. The first prize drawing will be on Wednesday, April 30.

Anyone interested in participating or forming a team must fill out a registration form online or a paper form at the Drinko Library Circulation Desk.

Amy McCallister-Ethel can be contacted at mcallister9@marshall.edu.

Hot. Cool. Yours. Balmy winter weather forces Sochi officials to tap snow reserve



Devin Logan, of the USA, finishes headfirst on her second run in the ladies' ski slopestyle at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Tuesday. Logan won the silver medal.

CARLOS GONZALEZ | MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE | MCT

By **WILLIAM DOUGLAS**
and **BARBARA BARRETT**
MCCLATCHY FOREIGN STAFF
(MCT)

The motto for the 2014 Winter Olympics is "Hot.Cool.Yours." Unfortunately, it's getting a little too hot in subtropical Sochi.

After Monday's temperatures reached the balmy upper 50s and Tuesday's temps appeared headed toward that direction, Russian officials went with Plan B and broke out snow stored from last winter. They applied it to courses that needed it at the mountain venues in Krasnaya Polyana.

"I cannot tell you how much. I just don't know," said Aleksandra Kosterina, spokeswoman for Sochi 2014, in an article from Olympic News Service. "I mean I don't know the specifics but I know that we did."

Some athletes were appreciative. "It's nice out," joked USA snowboarder Shaun White. "The sun's out. I don't know what the temperature is."

It was about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and fans were crunching by in slush.

White said that after the grooming, the halfpipe was in much better condition during official qualifying runs Tuesday than it had been during the informal training on previous days. "I'm so thankful for that," said White.

Temperatures dropped as night fell on the halfpipe finals Tuesday, and Seamus O'Connor of Ireland said the snow was better because the bottom of the pipe had re-frozen.

White, meanwhile, crashed on both of his runs in the finals, fell to fourth place and missed out on a medal.

Snow is a tricky business for the Winter Olympics. Too much of it, like the near white-out conditions at the 1998 games in Nagano, Japan, isn't a good thing. Too little of it — organizers of the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver were praying for snowfall — isn't a good thing, either.

Sochi is a large area with a dual identity. The Black Sea coastal area, where the skating sports arenas are located, has palms and fir trees. It's there where the weather has been balmy. Less than an hour away

are the mountains, which have natural snow at the higher elevations that's been augmented with artificial snow.

Critics have complained about Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to put the Winter Games in the place in Russia where it snows the least. And Russian Olympic officials have had to deal with snow questions even before the games began.

"We do have a strong contingency plan in place," Kosterina said. "We developed a special program I think two years ago certainly that included several measures, and one of them was the snow preservation."

In a scathing report last May detailing alleged corruption in around the construction of the Winter Games, frequent Putin critic Boris Nemtsov wrote:

"Russia is a wintery country. On the map, it is hard to find a spot where snow would never fall, and where winter sports would not be popular. Yet Putin has found such a spot and decided to hold the Winter Olympics there: in the city of Sochi."

Valery Lukyanov, the weather forecast manager

for the Winter Games, said in a news conference before the games began that Russia added a dozen weather stations in the mountains and hired some 50 weather and technical experts to forecast and advise on conditions.

Some snowboarding athletes have complained about their venue. Monday's half pipe practices were postponed as workers attempted to fix some of the concerns voiced by participating athletes.

Tuesday, some snowboarders continued to trip on the lip of the pipe or tumble in their landings. American snowboarder Taylor Gold said that soft snow, when it isn't properly groomed, gets bumpy and rattles the competitors on their runs.

"It's kind of scary," he said. "Figuring out how to ride this thing is a challenge," Taylor said. "When the weather's warm like this it's bound to get soft and I'm sure it's a challenge to get it up to competition standard. Had this event been held in a firmer pipe it would be a much better

See SNOW | Page 5

Nonfiction writer and poet, Eula Biss, set to read Wednesday

By **BRECKIN WELLS**
THE PARTHENON

As a part of the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival and the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series, author Eula Biss will have a public reading Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Shawkey Room in the Memorial Student Center.

Biss is best known for her second book of essays, "Notes from No Man's Land," which has received several awards such as the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and the National Book Critics Circle award for criticism.

She has a master of fine arts in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa and is currently teaching creative writing at Northwestern University.

Biss is now working on a

new book about metaphor and myth in medicine with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Howard Foundation Fellowship and an NEA Literature Fellowship.

Her essays have recently appeared in "The Best American Nonrequired Reading," "The Best Creative Nonfiction" and the "Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction."

Along with Biss, author John Bresland, also a professor of creative writing at Northwestern University, will appear Thursday in the MSC.

All events of the Birke Fine Arts Festival are open to the university and Huntington community until March 6.

Breckin Wells can be contacted at wells134@marshall.edu.

Educational counselors from around the world coming to Marshall

By **EKATERINA GUTSAN**
THE PARTHENON

INTO Marshall University is preparing to meet educational counselors from different countries Friday and Feb. 24

The counselors will represent agencies from India, United Kingdom, China and South Korea.

The main goal of the visit for the counselors is to see Marshall's campus and the programs provided for the students by INTO MU.

The agencies work as a recruitment team to find students who want to study abroad in America.

Ashley Mannon, marketing communications coordinator at INTO MU, said it has many advantages to be proud of as well as a rightful place on the agencies list.

"We are ready to show them all the wonderful things Marshall has to offer, so they may share that with potential students," Mannon said.

For the agencies, INTO MU will provide campus tours, visits with current students and a Huntington tour.

Ekaterina Gutsan can be contacted at gutsan@marshall.edu.

Obama administration tightens the use of diesel in fracking

By **NEELA BANERJEE**
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
(MCT)

The Obama administration on Tuesday moved to exert more control over the injection of diesel fuel deep underground to extract oil and natural gas, its first foray into addressing the potential contamination of water from the controversial technique.

The Environmental Protection Agency has little authority to regulate fluids used in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which involves pumping water laced with chemicals into shale formations to unlock trapped oil and gas. But the agency has been allowed since

2005 to regulate the use of diesel in fracking. Until Tuesday, it had not done so.

Companies must apply for permits from state or federal authorities to use diesel in fracking. But the EPA had not defined what it considered diesel, which comes in many formulations, complicating efforts to control its use.

The EPA's new guidance defines five substances as diesel that require a permit for use in fracking.

The agency's action, however, will have very little overall effect on fracking, since only about 2 percent of oil and gas operations in the country use diesel. The new measure

also leaves many forms of diesel unregulated.

It is not a rule, but guidance on how to interpret the law for federal officials who review and grant fracking permits. Among the recommendations: Officials should get detailed information about a well's construction and could request additional testing of a well before diesel is used.

Still, environmental groups pushing for tighter oversight of fracking welcomed the initiative.

"We know that diesel fuel is a toxic carcinogen and is a threat to drinking water if used in fracking," said Environment America's Clean

Water Program Director Courtney Abrams. "The EPA has made a small step toward curbing one of many threats from fracking."

Industry urged the EPA to withdraw the guidance. "This appears to be a solution in search of a problem: Based on actual industry practices, diesel fuel use has already been effectively phased out of hydraulic fracturing operations," said Lee Fuller, vice president of government relations at the Independent Petroleum Association of America. "But by perpetuating this regulatory process, the rule threatens the primacy of states' underground injection control programs."

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

US hockey team brings its best manners

By **FRANK FITZPATRICK**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
(MCT)

Someone obviously told this U.S. men's hockey team the story of their 1998 predecessors, the Monsters Who Destroyed Japan.

That veteran-laden American team, the night of its elimination at Nagano, trashed some Olympic Village rooms. Unidentified players smashed chairs, spewed the foamy contents of two fire extinguishers over a few apartments and heaved a third from a fifth-floor window.

They left Japan in disgrace, their vandalism having embarrassed their country more thoroughly than their medal-less performance. The incident, if nothing else, provided a cautionary tale for future U.S. Olympians, especially the hockey players.

The 2014 U.S. Olympic team that arrived in Sochi clearly had learned the lessons of '98.

During its first public appearance here, at an afternoon news conference Tuesday, the American players were strikingly polite, self-effacing, grateful and extremely complimentary to their Russian hosts.

The Ugly Americans had vanished. Here were the Cuddly Americans.

"Since we've been here, it's been nothing but the best," said forward Dustin Brown. "The facilities are great. The village is great. The people are great."

If he and the other Americans who voiced similarly glowing opinions weren't being sincere,



NHAT V. MEYER | BAY AREA NEWS GROUP | MCT
USA's Ryan Suter practices with his team during the Winter Olympics at the Bolshoy Ice Dome in Sochi, Russia, on Monday.

they'd been very well-coached.

"The facilities are nice. They're really very nice in the village. They've been great. We're excited to be here," said captain Zach Parise.

"First and foremost, we just want to thank Sochi for all the accommodations," said Patrick Kane, the high-scoring Black Hawks star. "Everything has been very easy for us. So thank you for that."

Even Ray Shero, the team's general manager, joined in the lovefest.

"It's great to get here and experience Russian hospitality," said Shero.

They wouldn't even bite when a reporter tried to goad

them into an uncomplimentary remark about the Russians, pointing out that earlier in the day one had said of the U.S. team, "1980 was your time and 2010 was Canada's. Now it is our time."

Coach Dan Bylsma replied as diplomatically as an ambassador to the Kremlin.

"I think the Olympics are a challenge for every team," Bylsma said. "This is a unique tournament and it presents a unique challenge. ... Every team is comprised of good, skilled hockey players. The team that figures out how to come together the fastest is probably going to be the most successful."

The Americans share a group with the Russians and their strategy, if that's what it was, seemed to be to lay low and let the host team experience the pressure of its nation's lofty expectations.

Whether the U.S. will be thanking their hosts in two weeks depends on how the Olympic hockey competition, which begins with two games Wednesday, plays out.

The Americans debut on Thursday against Slovakia. The matchup with Russia comes on Saturday. Russia opens play Thursday against the group's fourth team, Slovenia.

See USA | Page 5

Fall keeps White from medal in halfpipe

By **FRANK FITZPATRICK**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
(MCT)

Late Tuesday night, as he walked away from one his groundbreaking career's few failures, Shaun White looked burdened.

The big snowboard he carried after finishing fourth in his ballyhooed try for a third straight half-pipe gold medal appeared to weigh him down. The soft snow encumbered his footsteps. And the smile that came so easily in victory suddenly seemed forced.

In the first significant upset of these young Sochi Olympics, White failed to earn a medal in the event he not only popularized but rode to wealth and fame.

Switzerland's Iouri Podladtchikov, I-Pod to his fellow competitors in the nonconformist extreme sport, took gold over a pair of Japanese snowboarders with a score of 94.75.

The silver went to 15-year-old Ayumu Hirano (93.50), a huge fan of White's, and the bronze to Taku Hiraoka (92.25).

Though he didn't say as much, the defeat had to be especially disappointing for White, who had withdrawn from last Saturday's slopestyle to focus on half-pipe, an event he won at the last two Winter Games.

He'd qualified easily for the finals with the morning's best score, a 95.75 that was 31/2 points better than his closest competitor, Hiraoka.

But White uncharacteristically fell on his first finals effort on a Rosa Khutor Extreme Park course some competitors believed was compromised by unseasonable warmth.

The final competitor in the next round, White needed another dazzling trip through the snowy tube to win. Instead, he slightly mislanded two jumps and the 90.25 it earned him wasn't nearly enough to vault him onto the podium.

"Tonight was just not my time," White told reporters. "I'll go see my family and take time to reflect. I'm planning to go out and play some music (his band, Bad Things, recently released its first album). I have the tour to look forward to."

In his two Olympic victories, White had the half-pipe competition sewn up before his final jump.

If his defeat weren't disheartening enough to U.S. hopes for a medal-count victory at these Sochi Games, the three other Americans in the 12-man finals field also failed to medal.

Taylor Gold finished eighth, Danny Davis tenth and Greg Bretz twelfth.

"We let America down. Sorry, America," Davis said.

With Tuesday night's results and the earlier slopestyle victory of American Sage Kostenburg, the snowboarders who figure to replace the

See WHITE | Page 5

COLUMN

Alex Ovechkin, Russian hockey team under huge pressure



MITCHELL LAYTON | MCT
Washington Capitals and Team Russia right wing Alex Ovechkin (8) controls the puck during the second period against the Winnipeg Jets at the Verizon Center in Washington on Thursday, Feb. 6.

By **MARK PURDY**
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS (MCT)

Alex Ovechkin is a 6-foot-3 hockey player with broad shoulders. But over the next two weeks, those shoulders might not be broad enough. He needs to carry around an entire nation.

Ovechkin is literally everywhere here at the Winter Olympics. Not the real Ovechkin. The billboard Ovechkin. As the biggest star in Russia's most popular indoor spectator sport, his image is featured on Coca Cola advertisements on city streets, neighborhood kiosks and soft drink machines. Sochi is watched over by him benevolently. He is the Big Brother of Local Carbonation.

In the advertisement, Ovechkin holds a Coke bottle and smiles his missing-tooth smile, accompanied by large block lettering with a bold Russian

phrase.

"It means, 'Join, join!' the real flesh-and-blood Ovechkin translated here to reporters.

"Among the Russian citizenry, it might as well also mean: 'Don't choke, don't choke!'"

Make no mistake. The local hockey team has the toughest gig in the Caucasus when the Olympic hockey tournament begins Wednesday. At the 2010 Vancouver Games, the Canadian hockey team was under huge pressure to win on home ice. And it did win. But the pressure on the Russians to win here might be even more intense, because the Russians seem to take hockey even more seriously than Canadians.

Some of that might have to do with their leader. The other night on Russian television, a program showed president Vladimir Putin—who doubles as the country's power

play coach—suing up in full hockey gear to take part in a charity game. The footage also showed him scoring a goal or two. Smart goalie.

"You know, this is Putin's team, Putin's sport," said NBC hockey analyst Jeremy Roenick, here to broadcast the tournament. "I'll be interested to see how the Russian team reacts and performs."

With sticks gripped very tight, one would guess. Nobody ever wants to be sent to Vlad The Man's penalty box.

Get ready, then, for some motivated Russian effort. Ovechkin, who plays for the Washington Capitals, is here along with other NHL players to complete the mission, along with a batch of players from the country's own Kontinental League. The team held a mass

See RUSSIA | Page 5

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THE VILLAGE ON SIXTH
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OPINION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

EDITORIAL

Sam takes big step for gay athletes

Michael Sam's life has been a series of obstacles, the least of which has been his sexual orientation.

The seventh of eight children, three of his siblings have died and two of his brothers are in prison. His relationship with his mother, a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, was strained by Sam's decision to play football, as she wanted his focus to be on the mission of service.

Sam didn't even believe he would go to college, as no one in his family had before, but beating all the odds, he did.

And now, Sam is projected to be a third or fourth round draft pick for the NFL.

Sam's decision to come out before the draft speaks volumes of his character. He's putting everything out in the open as though he has nothing to hide, and that's because he doesn't.

There's a stigma against gays in professional sports, as though being gay somehow makes you less of an athlete.

Guess what? It doesn't. Hopefully, Sam's announcement will pave the way for other professional athletes who are gay to be open about it, because let's face it, he is certainly not the first.

Take NBA player Jason Collins. Collins came out in April 2013 and received

support from those in the NBA community, as well as President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Or, take the words of recently retired MLB player Michael Young who said he guarantees he has had a gay teammate, and furthermore, it's not an issue so long as the teammate does his part.

What does sexual orientation have to do with the ability to play football? What does it have to do with success in general? It makes no difference if someone is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. If they have what it takes, they have what it takes, and Sam has what it takes to be a successful NFL player.

Online Polls

You Can Be HERD

What is your favorite Valentine's Day gift to give and/or receive?

Flowers
Candy
Stuffed animals

What is your favorite Philip Seymour Hoffman film?

"Capote" 31%
"Charlie Wilson's War" 8%
"The Big Lebowski" 62%

Voice your opinion. It is your right. Answer our poll at www.marshallparthenon.com or tweet us your answer at @MUParthenon.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

GOP spoke too soon on immigration

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (MCT)

"The serious problems in our immigration system must be solved, and we are committed to working in a bipartisan manner to solve them." — From the preamble of the House Republicans' "standards for immigration reform," released Jan. 30.

Well, that didn't last long.

A week after declaring that it's time to deal with the "political football" of immigration reform, House Speaker John Boehner is threatening to punt again.

"The American people, including many of my members, don't trust that the reform that we're talking about will be implemented as it was intended to be," Boehner said last week, icing the optimism that greeted the GOP's outline for a promised legislative package.

The document acknowledges that the failure to repair our broken immigration system — a failure that rests squarely on House Republicans' refusal to do anything at all — "is hurting our economy and jeopardizing our national security." It's sprinkled liberally with phrases like "it is past time" and "it is imperative" and "we must."

But never mind all that. In a matter of days, the hope that immigration reform might be realized by the end of this year has been replaced by the excuse that it can't possibly happen as long as Barack Obama is president.

What the Republicans are saying is that immigration reform is critical to the nation's long-term interests, but the status quo will just have to do for three more years. And Boehner is saying he doesn't have the muscle to do what he just finished saying must be done.

Let's be clear: If the House refuses to take up immigration reform this year, it's not on Obama. It's on Boehner.

The Obama administration has deported 2 million people since 2009, far more than were deported during eight years under George W. Bush, whose calls for immigration

reform went unheeded by his own party. Obama has taken a lot of heat from immigration activists, but his emphasis on enforcement helped create what emerged last week as an opening for compromise.

For the first time, Democrats in Congress signaled a willingness to consider something short of a special path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants who came to the country illegally.

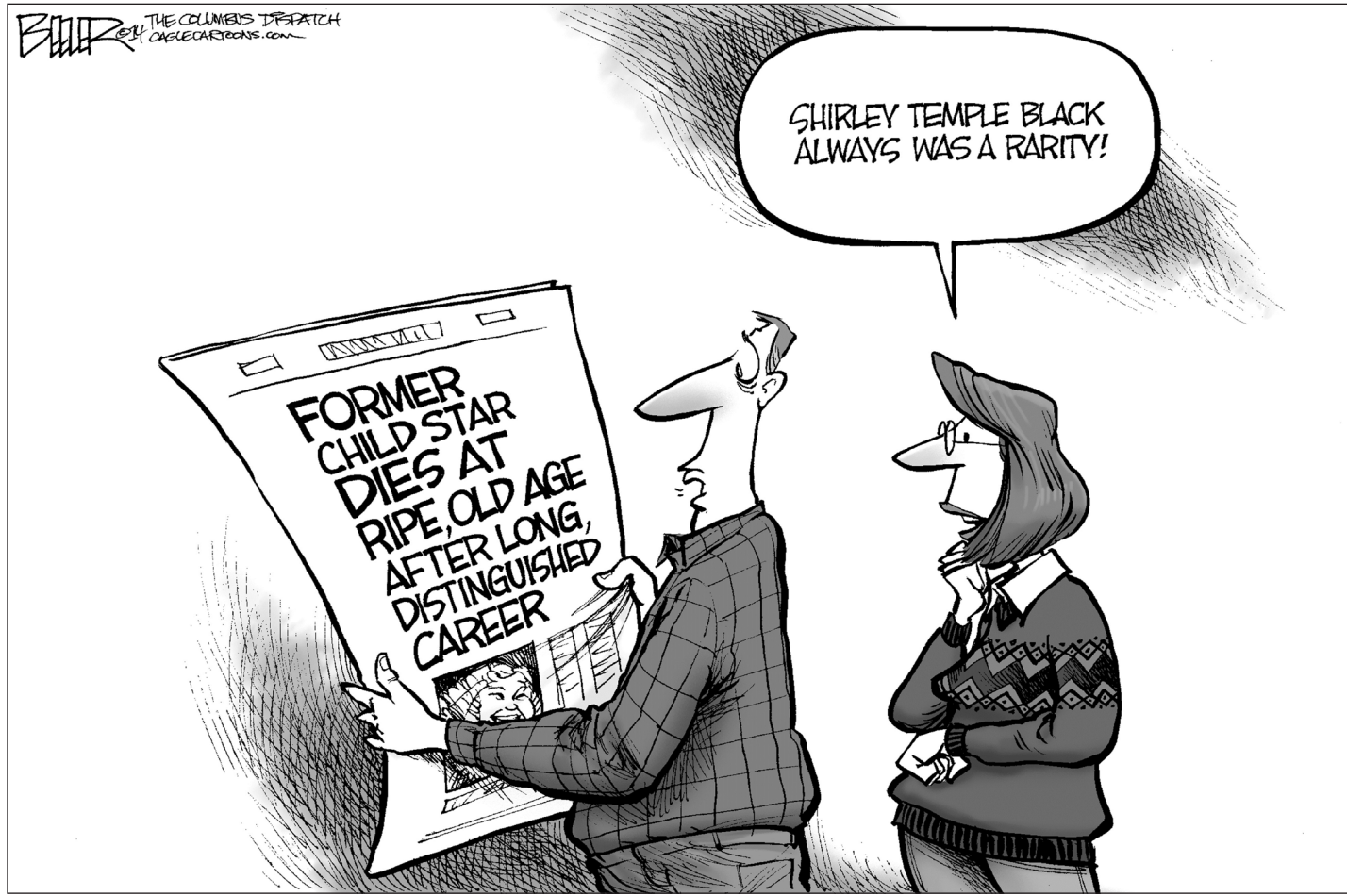
The president has insisted on such a provision, and hard-line Republicans have ruled it out, calling it "amnesty." But many advocates for immigrants now say that ending the threat of deportation is more important than the promise of citizenship.

That opens the door to an agreement under which those immigrants could remain in the country without hiding, and American businesses could hire the workers they need legally. But House Republicans are apparently willing to take a pass on that opening to placate the hard-liners, who are threatening to take out the speaker if he pushes for immigration reform in an election year.

The blowback over the Republicans' cautious embrace of immigration reform did not come from "the American people." In poll after poll, the American people strongly support comprehensive immigration reform — including, by the way, a path to earned citizenship. Boehner knows that.

For Republicans, failure to act is shortsighted and self-defeating, and Boehner knows that, too. Latino voters are the fastest growing segment of the electorate — aka the American people — and 70 percent of them cast ballots for Obama in 2012.

That got the attention of Senate Republicans, who brokered a bipartisan immigration bill that Boehner refuses to call for a vote — a position that's defensible only if his chamber is serious about coming up with its own solution. If that's not the case, the speaker has only himself to blame.



MCT CAMPUS

COLUMN

Oscar-nominated documentaries take viewers to far and dangerous places

By STEVE PAUL
THE KANSAS CITY STAR (MCT)

Three of the five Academy Award nominees for best feature-length documentary movie take viewers to distant places and troubled times.

The other two come out of the arts, and it wouldn't be surprising if a popular, feel-goodish favorite, "20 Feet From Stardom," about a generation of female backup singers, wins the Oscar statuette.

But those foreign affairs movies bear watching. Indeed, they ought to be watched and contemplated by Americans. (Each is streaming on Netflix now or may otherwise be available in the digital universe.)

"The Square," the first-ever Egyptian-made movie in Oscar competition, puts a poignant human face on the last few years of upheaval. It follows the lives of several Egyptians who made Cairo's Tahrir Square a populist symbol and then a place of tragedy as the unintended consequences of the uprising's

first achievement — the toppling of President Hosni Mubarak — led to military and police-state crackdowns.

The movie, like Egypt itself right now, ends in a political limbo, but makes you aware of what real lives are like on that roller-coaster of hope and despair.

Another nominee, "The Act of Killing," vividly recounts a mid-1960s period of brutality in Indonesia, when a strongman government killed a million or more suspected communists. The move bears a producing imprint of the noted German filmmaker Werner Herzog, which might very well carry Oscar weight.

The third, "Dirty Wars," speaks more directly to America's current foreign policy and its role in the world — and the picture is not pretty. Longtime war correspondent Jeremy Scahill first recounts a night-time raid by American troops in a dangerous region of Afghanistan. In the village of Gardez, in 2010, a local police official and two pregnant women are among the fatalities, apparently shot in

cold blood.

The more Scahill asks American authorities questions about what happened in Gardez and why, the more he's rebuffed. Over the next few years he connects the dots, which outline the off-the-grid activities of the Joint Special Operations Command. This is the mostly secret network of military units that conduct the war on terror by stealth and assassination and at the command of President Barack Obama. JSOC produced the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, and it launched a drone attack that killed an American citizen turned al-Qaida leader, Anwar al-Awlaki, and his teen-age son in Yemen.

As becomes clear in this movie, directed by Richard Rowley, and from other recent reports, U.S. special operations have taken place in scores of nations around the world. Americans need the opportunity to weigh what is being done in our name, and how far the anti-terror campaign can go before it puts into question real American values.

THE PARTHENON

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'Tonight' returning to the Big Apple

By **VERNE GAY**
NEWSDAY (MCT)

May 1972, a tough month for the city that never sleeps (and didn't sleep much then, either). The Knicks lost to the Lakers in the NBA championship, then a few days later, the Rangers fell to the Bruins in the Stanley Cup final. New York had long since shed its John Lindsay-bestowed appellation as "Fun City," but "fun" really seemed to drain right into the Hudson after Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" went west around the same time.

During his 10-year tenure at 30 Rock, starting in 1962, Carson had defined the city for the better — the world capital of arts, publishing and haute couture. And for the worse: A crime-ridden, rat-infested island of decay and dysfunction.

But even that was OK. Made for better jokes and one-liners.

Carson's departure for Los Angeles was worse than deflating. It was catastrophic. The barbarians had scaled the gates. The philistines had triumphed. That's right: Hollywood had won. This represented the final cruel conquest of West Coast culture over East. As a final insult, "Tonight" didn't even go to Hollywood, but to Burbank.

The record states that the month of June 1972 was bright and sunny, but one small dark cloud took position over Fifth Avenue at 49th Street, where it has remained ever since — until Monday, when Jimmy Fallon brings "Tonight" back to Studio 6B, where this classic belongs.

Why did Johnny leave? Long story, many answers. Comedian and writer David Steinberg, who appeared on Carson's "Tonight" more than 130 times, beginning in 1968, said in a recent radio interview: "Carson had ordained" the culture in the city, but as payback, "he couldn't go anywhere" without being mobbed. Worse, "the weather got to him."

Carson also had a personal reason to go west — a bitter divorce here, and a new wife there. He would marry Joanna Holland that September.

"The 'Tonight Show,' as fans would aver, had many great years in Burbank. But something was indisputably lost in the move west.

Hal Gurnee, longtime director of Jack Paar's "Tonight," and later "Late Show With David Letterman," explains: "When Dave asked Morty (Robert Morton, former executive producer) and me to look at studios (upon Letterman's move from NBC to CBS) we went out to the West Coast because CBS was very anxious to get him out there to fill up one of its big new studios. So Dave afterwards called me as soon as we went through the studios and wanted to know how it was. I said, 'It's like NASA — there's an enormous white building and a parking lot for 2,000 cars. If that's appealing to you, it's not to me ...'"

Gurnee would ultimately persuade Letterman to move a few blocks to the old Hammerstein Theater on Broadway, better known as "The Ed Sullivan."

There's a "magic" to New York, and "more interesting people and greater diversity" than any place on the planet, he adds.



Colin Farrell, left, as Peter Lake and Jessica Brown Findlay as Beverly Penn in "Winter's Tale." DAVID C. LEE | MCT

Oscar-winning writer calls in favors to make 'Winter's Tale'

By **ROGER MOORE**
MCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE (MCT)

Oscar-winning screenwriter, producer and director Akiva Goldsman fell in love with Mark Helprin's 1983 novel "Winter's Tale" decades ago. And despite the book's themes, texture, density and sheer bulk — it is 740 pages long — he could never quite give up the idea that it should be a movie.

"It's a fairy tale for grownups," says Goldsman, who won an Oscar for adapting "A Beautiful Mind," and counts "The Da Vinci Code," "Cinderella Man" and "A Time to Kill" among his screenplay credits. "The most appealing thing about the book is also the most tricky. It's a hybridized genre — magical realism. It's not something Americans have embraced in books or in movies, because it's neither fantasy nor fact — bricks and mortar reality right alongside high fantasy."

Think "Life of Pi" or "Midnight in Paris," for examples of the rare movies in the genre that have been hits.

"Back when the book came out, you'd have people who couldn't tolerate the idea of a dramatic, wrenching scene of death in the same story as a flying white horse. You either think that's delightful, or it makes your eyes cross."

In "Winter's Tale," in turn-of-the-20th century America, an immigrant baby is set adrift in a model ship by parents denied entrance to America so that he might grow up to have the opportunities denied him. "Peter Lake" grows up to become a thief, only to fall for Beverly, a spirited but sickly, doomed beauty, the daughter of a newspaper editor. Can he somehow save her with his "gift"?

Peter is pursued by a gang led by his former mentor, the murderous Pearly. And he is saved, time and again, by a magical,

winged white horse, which makes it easier to accept Peter's sudden arrival 100 years in the future where his fate and his past actions meet their destiny.

The New York Times Book Review was among those publications praising this "large souled" book as one of the best American novels of its era. But that alone wasn't enough to keep Goldsman, one of Hollywood's most in-demand screenwriters, interested.

"It's about redefining hope and triumph in the search for meaning after we've lost someone," he says. He took versions of a script to studios six times over the years. "And I was right in the middle of that sixth try when my wife suddenly died."

Rebecca Goldsman had a heart attack in July 2010. She was only 42. Goldsman stayed with his labor-of-love project "as a way of surviving that."

"In a funny way, I made it for people like me, who have gone through that, losing someone who was too young," Goldsman says. "Finally, everybody becomes like me. We all face the death of loved ones."

Hollywood is full of determined writer-directors pushing scripts they describe as "a labor of love." Goldsman's track record meant that he'd be given seriously consideration — with strings attached.

"Warner Bros. graciously said 'Yes.' We budgeted the movie at \$80 (million), and they gave us \$40." (\$46 million is the reported budget.)

Goldsman could get around that shortfall in ways available to a screenwriter who has an Oscar, a best picture win, a lot of hits under his belt and loyal actor friends he's made over the course of a 30-year film career.

"Akiva calls, of course I'm doing the movie," says Jennifer Connelly, who won

her best supporting actress Oscar for "A Beautiful Mind." "I've been hearing about this project for many years. It's flattering and I was honored, too, to be asked to be a part of something that's so close to his heart."

Basically, Goldsman says, "The movie's an accumulation of 20 years of Hollywood favors."

Connelly would play Virginia, a modern-day reporter who becomes entangled in Peter Lake's story.

Russell Crowe, her "Beautiful Mind" co-star, took the role of the demonic villain Pearly. In tinkering with, streamlining and trying to make the story "more cohesive, with rules to this universe that everyone could understand," Goldsman created a boss for Pearly — Lucifer himself. To play him? Another favor called in — Will Smith, who starred in films based on Goldsman's scripts for "I Am Legend" and "I, Robot." Colin Farrell plays Peter Lake and Jessica Brown Findlay is Beverly.

An old hand at converting popular books into movies, Goldsman took liberties with this "Tale," and he wishes fans of the book will let him get away with it.

"You hope that you're consolidating those salient elements that are meaningful to the novel, and that other people will agree those are the main points. We all like things for different reasons, so it's a real game of roulette, in terms of popular acceptance."

His biggest aim — to not compromise in the most important ways, "make a movie for grownups," to not water down the magical realism, the romance or the tragedy of an acclaimed novel just to make an easier sell.

"'Endless Love' opens opposite us. A friend of mine joked, this is 'Ended Love.'"

SNOW

Continued from Page 2

contest because we would've had practice and people would be going bigger."

At a nearby event, some of the ski slopestyle competitors said

they noticed the soft snow in their event too.

"Today, everything softened up," said Devin Logan, Team USA's silver medalist. "The landings were kind of mushy." She tried to make the most of it, she said, imagining skiing on a

spring day.

"Everyone was in the same conditions," Logan said. "We can't control Mother Nature. We just adjust to it."

The forecast for Wednesday at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park calls for a high of 45.

USA

Continued from Page 3

The prospect of a U.S.-Russia game at a Russian Olympics has evoked comparisons to 1980's Miracle On Ice, when a team of American collegians famously upset the mighty Soviet Union on U.S. soil.

That game is recalled far differently here. If it's not seen as an outright disaster, it's at least a national disappointment from which they've never fully recovered.

Once dominant internationally, the Russians haven't won Olympic gold since 1992.

On the other hand, the miracle jump-started American hockey.

USA Hockey, which had six employees in 1980, now has close to 100. An NHL rarity at the time, Americans now are well-represented on every roster and every all-star team.

Suter's father, Gary, played on that 1980 U.S. team, though his son had to learn about the

game's significance at school.

"My dad is a pretty quiet guy," explained Suter, the most experienced U.S. player internationally. "He didn't talk much about it when I was growing up."

"I wasn't around so I didn't know much about its impact. Most of what I know about it I learned through my friends and teachers telling me where they were when it happened."

No one asked him where he was in 1998.

WHITE

Continued from Page 3

27-year-old White, the unconventional sport's longtime king as well as its commercial face, look to have emerged.

"It's great that America and the world now know there are other snowboarders out there besides Shaun White," Davis said. "Don't get me wrong, Shaun's one of the most talented and best riders out there. But there are guys who are just as good if not better."

Davis' comments reflected the feelings of many in the sport.

They saw White as someone who dropped into their world only occasionally, whenever all his other commercial and personal commitments allowed.

Those feelings were re-enforced last week when he withdrew from slopestyle.

What carried Podladtchikov to victory was a daring trick he calls YOLO — You Only Live Once — that involves four-plus spins. So groundbreaking is the move he created that White began doing it himself.

Before Tuesday's event, warm temperatures had left the base of the course uneven,

its normally hard-packed snow loose and granular.

After several spills during Monday's practice session, officials authorized that salt and water be applied, hoping the snow would melt and then refreeze.

While not perfect, by Tuesday, competitors reported, conditions had improved.

White had trained in solitude for much of the last year but still came here as the heavy favorite. He was trying to become just the fourth Olympian to capture the same individual event in three consecutive Games.

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Class portrait at the 86th Annual Oscars Nominees Luncheon
PHOTOS BY ROBERT GAUTHIER | LOS ANGELES TIMES

By **REBECCA KEEGAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

In a town obsessed with VIP status, it is a refreshingly meritocratic event.

At the Academy of Motion Pictures' annual Oscar nominees luncheon Monday at the Beverly Hilton, A-list stars such as Bono, Meryl Streep and Leonardo DiCaprio dined with Hollywood's more anonymous craftsmen, the sound mixers, documentary short directors and makeup artists who share with them one special quality — they are all among this year's 203 Oscar nominees.

"I guess at the Oscar luncheon we all mix and mash together like a giant gumbo," said DiCaprio, nominated for lead actor for "The Wolf of Wall Street," upon arriving at his table with his father, George.

More than 150 of this year's nominees attended, with the notable exception of Woody Allen, who never comes — even in years when he's not engulfed in controversy.

As the nominees kibitzed, the producers of this year's Oscar telecast, Neil Meron and Craig Zadan, took to the podium to offer some advice on speeches. Whether anyone will listen is another story.

"The show is successful if the pacing of the evening feels brisk," Zadan said, pausing for effect. "You understand? The words should be spoken from your heart and not from a list on a piece of paper."

He warned that winners would have 45 seconds to speak before the orchestra started, and that group winners should select a spokesperson.

After lunch, as the nominees lined up on risers for their class photo, with best song nominee Pharrell Williams and his signature tall hat stationed wisely at the back, there was time for more inter-movie bonding. "American Hustle" director David O. Russell made "August: Osage County" actress Streep laugh; "American Hustle" lead actor nominee Christian Bale introduced himself to "Captain Phillips" supporting actor nominee and Hollywood newcomer Barkhad Abdi; and "Dallas Buyers Club" supporting actor nominee Jared Leto escorted "Nebraska" supporting actress nominee June Squibb up the steps.

Academy members will cast their votes for the Oscars Feb. 14-25. The 86th Academy Awards will take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood March 2.

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