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THE PARTHENON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2014 | VOL. 117 NO. 93 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Ukrainian students weigh in on crisis

By EKATERINA GUTSAN
THE PARTHENON

Ukraine and Russia have been in strong brotherhood connections for long time. For many years they were thinking, working and living in the same places. This all changed in November when the Ukrainian government officially rejected to sign the Association Agreement with European Union.

While this issue is unfolding an ocean away, it is a personal situation for Marshall University students who are also citizens of Ukraine. "At the beginning I did not pay much attention to this situation," Stanislav Gordienko, graduate student, said. "Ukraine had one revolution, called 'Orange', which was based on a Ghandi's philosophy,

and had completely peaceful protests. But I realized that peaceful protests are over, society has a low life satisfaction and ready to use physical force." Vadym Gorchakov, graduate student, said he sympathizes with the people who are getting hurt or killed but he is proud of their courage. Gorchakov said he understands what people went

through because he grew up there and saw this situation himself. "It is hard to say whether it is good or bad, but it is good that people wanted to show their opinion and way of thinking," Gorchakov said. Political concerns are getting harder for civil people who end up in a difficult situation for the country.

"Ukrainian political system needs global changes and improvements," Gordienko said. "Although I doubt if you can change people's world outlook so quickly, prevent corruption and maintain transparency on all levels." Gorchakov said the best way to find a good solution is to have a dialog. "Ukraine needs young politicians, who have never lived

in the communistic USSR, and have modern points of view," Gordienko said. Gordienko hopes Ukraine will keep the strategy of globalization and transparency maintained in all areas, including news, politics, education and business. **Ekaterina Gutsan can be contacted at gutsan@marshall.edu.**

'Coffee with the Mayor' scheduled for Thursday

THE PARTHENON

Students and faculty will meet with Huntington Mayor Steve Williams over coffee from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday in the Memorial Student Center for the monthly Coffee with the Mayor.

This monthly event is an opportunity for students, faculty and anyone in the Huntington community to interact with and voice problems and concerns to Williams in a casual setting. Student Government Association Chief of Staff Jordan Wooldridge said last month's turnout was the largest since the event was implemented in the spring of 2013.

"I'm hopeful that as more students learn of this event, they will make an effort to come out and voice their concerns," Wooldridge said.

Last month, more than 35 people attended Coffee with the Mayor to voice issues and concerns, including underage drinking in Huntington, off-campus student housing, pedestrian safety, road conditions, street lighting conditions and storm water buildup.

As an added bonus, those who tweet photos of the event will be entered into a drawing to win a Keurig coffee maker. Participants can do so by tweeting at the Marshall University SGA or by using "#coffeechats."



ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON
Sorority members weave through a group obstacle course challenge Tuesday inside the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center.

Sororities compete in disabilities challenge

By MALAK KHADER
THE PARTHENON

Pi Kappa Phi sponsored a philanthropic event Tuesday in the Don Morris Room at the Memorial Student Center. Tuesday's series of activities included an obstacle course that was meant to challenge sororities by helping them empathize with people with disabilities. The obstacle course included

activities that highlighted wheelchair agility, vision impairment, nonverbal communication and cognitive disabilities. Tyler Holtzclaw, junior accounting major from Cincinnati and philanthropy chairman for Pi Kappa Phi, said this is something that his fraternity does nationwide to get the Greeks together.

"You go everyday of your life and you never really stop and think, 'What if I didn't have an arm? Or my vision?' Any disability from color blindness to dyslexia," Holtzclaw said. "We just take everything for granted. The point of this event was to help people try to keep things in perspective and realize that everything can be so much worse."

The participating sororities included Delta Zeta, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Xi Delta, and Alpha Chi Omega. Tyler Marcum, junior nursing major from Wayne, said War of the Roses is essentially dedicated to raising awareness for people with disabilities and for Push America, which is Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy. Pi Kappa Phi is the only

fraternity to own and operate this own philanthropy. "This year it's our inaugural War of the Roses, we wanted to have more of a focus on awareness instead of fundraising." War of Roses is expected to wrap up Friday with a pageant for the participating sororities. **Malak Khader can be contacted at khader4@marshall.edu.**

Geocaching craze coming to Huntington area

By ALEXANDRIA RAHAL
THE PARTHENON

The Huntington area's newest tourist attraction will allow tourists and local residents to experience Huntington, Barboursville and Milton in a different way. The Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau announced the formation of the area's first geocaching trail. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which the participants use coordinates, GPS receiver or mobile device such as a smart phone, and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches" anywhere in the world. The CHCVB started working on the area's first geocaching

trail more than a year ago. It began when local resident Steve Adkins engaged with the CHCVB through an online communication portal. "This project has really gained a life of its own," Jake Sharp, sales manager for the CHCVB, said. "It started as a simple idea and has snowballed into something bigger than I ever imagined." The launch of the trail begins with several events centered in Huntington's downtown area. The first event is 7 p.m. March 14 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel. This event is free and open to the public. It will also allow experienced catchers to visit with one another, take pictures and get acquainted with the area. Those new to geocaching can take part in a newbie/muggle

class as well as receive instructions for the trail. "If you know nothing about geocaching or would like to bring a muggle, we will happily teach you about our outdoor GPS addiction and help you set up a free account," Adkins said in a press release. Friday evening will conclude with the release of one cache with a code word for those who would like to get a head start on the trail. The actual kick off of the trail takes place 11 a.m. March 15 at the visitors center of Heritage Station. During this event, participants can register while enjoying free music, food and other entertainment. The CHCVB will be giving out door prizes to attendees throughout the event. Handouts will

be distributed at noon and the catchers can begin their exploration of the area.

"It started as a simple idea and has snowballed into something bigger than I ever imagined."

-Jake Sharp, CHCVB sales manager

The trail is composed of 15 sites throughout Huntington, Milton and Barboursville. Each site will have a code word to collect to fill in on a scorecard. When catchers turn in their scorecards to the CHCVB they will be asked to fill out a short information card. The first 200 participants to do this will

receive a Cabell County trackable geocoin. So far the CHCVB has approximately 200 confirmed guests to the kickoff event. The geocaching trail is not just designed to attract tourists. Creators hope it will also inspire people of the area to get involved. Several of the sites are of special interest to local residents, including one that features the Marshall Memorial. "Not only do we hope that the geocaching trail will bring new people to Huntington, we also hope it will inspire local pride and allow the public to see the CHCVB as a valuable resource," Sharp said. Another component of the weekend is the Cache in Trash Out initiative. Since

2002, CITO has been an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community. They sponsor event focused on litter clean-up, removal of invasive species, revegetation efforts or building trails. In the Huntington area, the CITO initiative will begin at 9:45 a.m. March 15 and focus on trash removal from the Harris Riverfront Park. "We want folks to feel good about where they live and enjoy showcasing their home," Sharp said. "Plus, learning a healthful, life-long activity with the entire family which is enjoyed around the world is hard to beat." **Alexandria Rahal can be contacted at rahal1@marshall.edu.**

UNI 102 helps students succeed in college

By TANNER FAW
THE PARTHENON

UNI 102 Strategies for Academic Success is an 8-week course instructed by the Student Resource Center’s Resource Specialist Samantha Fox.

The class takes place in Laidley Hall and content focuses on a culmination of all the SRC’s workshops.

The topics covered include studying skills, critical reading strategies, note-taking, listening, time management, academic stress management and exam preparation.

“UNI 102 is an essential course for incoming freshmen because they are taught all academic success strategies and techniques in one class,” Career Counselor Michelle Barbour

said. “It’s a very convenient class by that nature, and will certainly help students both in the classroom and out.”

UNI 102 is worth one credit hour and counts as a free elective hour.

It’s designed to be an academic enrichment course that provides students with strategies and practical experience for academic success.

“The most important thing for students to walk away with upon completion of this course is the ability to maximize all of the skills and resources necessary to ensure their academic success,” Barbour said.

The class will prepare freshmen to succeed academically, personally and socially.

A primary course objective is

to assess students’ individual learning styles and help them apply it to classroom situations, as well as helping them identify how they process information.

Other course objectives include developing and tracking progress toward personal and academic goals, formulating a time management system that incorporates planning

and study times and utilizing the resources of the Marshall library system for a variety of assignments.

“I enjoy getting to know the students and helping them to better understand their own personal learning styles and making use of them in the classroom,” Barbour said.

Tanner Faw can be contacted at faw@marshall.edu.

Now open: The Hillary Clinton (campaign?) store



PHOTOS BY ASTRID RIECKEN | MCT

Hundreds of Hillary Clinton campaign buttons are ready to be shipped to Clinton supporters by Ready For Hillary, a PAC urging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016 from its headquarters in Rosslyn, VA.

By ANITA KUMAR
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON
BUREAU (MCT)

In a concrete high-rise across the river from the nation’s capital, the Hillary Clinton store is open for business.

There are aluminum ornaments — each adorned with a giant H — for Christmas, champagne flutes engraved

with 2016 for New Year’s Eve and long-sleeved I love Hillary T-shirts with red hearts for Valentine’s Day, naturally.

And every day, there are iPhone covers, tote bags, lanyards, even Born Ready for Hillary onesies for the youngest family member. Dog leashes are coming soon.

Ready for Hillary, the political

action committee that hopes to lay the groundwork for a second presidential run, already has hawked 25,000 pieces of campaignlike paraphernalia — three years before Election Day — for someone who may not even run.

Kiki McLean, a senior adviser to Clinton’s campaign in 2008 who works for a Washington public relations firm, said the latest generation involved in politics had shown that it wouldn’t wait to be invited to participate. “People are channeling their energy and enthusiasm,” she said.

The so-called Hillary store is tucked on the fifth floor of the group’s offices. White shelves filled with products line the walls, while dozens of shipments ready to be transported to the nearby post office sit on a table. Occasionally, a customer will wander in to try on a shirt or make an exchange, but most purchases are made online.

See HILLARY | Page 5

MU takes sophomores to the theater

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University will sponsor a trip Sunday to Columbus for sophomores to see a performance of “The Phantom of the Opera.”

Tickets were made available in the Memorial Student Center Tuesday. Tickets are limited and they are on a first come, first serve basis.

There is a \$25 reservation fee for students but they will be reimbursed at the time of departure. Students will need to provide money for is eating and shopping while in Columbus.

The opera is based on a novel written by French writer Gaston Leroux in 1911. The story is a romantic drama that follows three main characters, Erik, Christine and Raoul, who are in a love triangle.

During the course of the story, Erik, the

deformed mentor to Christine, had never experienced love before and was not able to control his emotions. He eventually falls madly in love with her and becomes obsessed and jealous, kidnapping her multiple times. He forces her to choose between him and Raoul, but he ultimately decides to let her go so she can live a happy life.

Students will be placed in the orchestra section.

Lee Tabor, the interim coordinator of student activities, worked with the Office of Housing and Residence Life to make this trip happen.

“A lot of times retention efforts, such as activities, are focused solely on freshman,” Tabor said. “This gives us the chance to bring programming more directed to keeping our sophomores involved in campus life.”

MU professor discusses a mother’s role on protagonists in upcoming lecture

THE PARTHENON

The Women’s Studies Program has an abundance of events lined up to help students celebrate Women’s History Month including a women’s studies faculty colloquium lecture noon Friday in Drinko Library Room 402.

The lecture, Sky Gods, Mad Scientists, and Impossible Genetics: Frankenstein Fathers in Children’s Film and Television, will be delivered by Walter Squire, assistant professor in the English department.

Squire’s research is based primarily in films and will explore the motherless protagonists of several animated children’s shows.

“When a character is

motherless but no mention is made of that character ever having had a mother one can wonder whether or not a viewer is supposed to believe that the character was created by a father alone,” Squire said.

Squire earned his doctorate in English from the University of Tennessee where he specialized in American literature and critical theory. His research and teaching concerns are children’s and fantasy literature film, especially “The Wizard of Oz,” proletarian literature and sexuality studies.

Squire’s lecture is free and open to the public and a reception with refreshments will follow the lecture.

Student body president, vice president stepping down after successful term



FILE PHOTO

Student Body President E.J. Hassan and Vice President Ashley Lyons

By TYLER PRALLEY
THE PARTHENON

Student Body President E.J. Hassan and Student Body Vice President Ashley Lyons announced this week they will be stepping down from their positions in Student Government Association at the end of the semester and will not be running for reelection.

The Hassan-Lyons administration began in the fall of 2013 and set to work on the various goals and initiatives it saw as the vision for their administration. Hassan said their goal was to break the mold of SGA so it could be an organization that made positive changes on campus and improved the campus experience for all of its constituents.

“Real action is more important than recognition,” Hassan said. “That’s why our goal was to involve any and all areas of our community so that we, together, could make an impact on those we serve.”

Lyons said from the beginning they had two initiatives set in stone. They wanted to establish constituency-based projects, which were based on the needs of constituents, and the Syllabi Repository, a central location where students can access syllabi from professors on campus. Both of these initiatives, according to Lyons, were accomplished over the past seven months.

“Our work is truly a testament to this year’s administration under E.J. and me,” Lyons said.

“We’ve accomplished everything that we set out to and more.”

Some of the constituency based projects that the Hassan-Lyons administration undertook included new lighting on fraternity row, the use of Joan C. Edwards Stadium for club sports teams’ matches and new hallway benches in Corbly Hall. They also undertook the planning of the 2013 Memorial Fountain Ceremony, coordinated the 2013 Homecoming Parade and were involved with the new Marshall INTO program, The President’s Office, the Department of Athletics and the city of Huntington.

“I am proud that my administration was able to take the initiative and seek true action on conversations that, in previous years, were held behind closed doors,” Hassan said. “We were able to see the various projects through until the end, as a result, true change can be seen.”

Hassan and Lyons said their time in SGA taught them many valuable skills, which they will take into the workforce someday.

“At the end of the day, our most important accomplishment is we were able to leave an impact on our campus,” Hassan said. “Recognition aside, I look forward to coming back here someday and seeing the lasting changes we made for the betterment of Marshall University, changes that students will experience for years to come.”

Tyler Pralley can be contacted at pralley@marshall.edu.

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SPORTS

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Mbao closes book on Marshall career

By BRAXTON CRISP
THE PARTHENON

A journey that has taken Marshall University men's basketball center Yous Mbao a grand total of 8,482 miles from his hometown of Rufisque, Senegal, is wrapping up, as he will play his final game at 7 p.m. on Thursday inside the Cam Henderson Center as part of the Thundering Herd.

Mbao said the thought of putting on his No. 34 jersey for the last time is something he does not like.

"It's going to be real tough," Mbao said. "It's something I really don't want to do, but I don't have any other option. I wish I could be wearing that jersey every day and playing on this floor every day."

The trek to Huntington began with moving to Simi Valley, Calif., to play high school basketball for Stonebridge Prep. From there, he went to Milwaukee, Wis., and played one season under head coach Buzz Williams before transferring to Marshall ahead of the 2010-11 season.

Mbao has appeared in 65 total games for the Herd after missing numerous games throughout his career due to knee, wrist and head injuries. While his 25 career points do not sound like much, head coach Tom

Herrion said Mbao is valuable to the team as a leader.

"Mbao and myself maybe wish he had a more productive statistical playing career, but it's been marred by a ton of injuries and other variables," Herrion said. "Our program is in better shape having had him in the program for four years, because he's such a tremendous young man. I'm a better person for having had the opportunity to coach him the last four years."

Mbao said he took the role of being a leader from the first time he stepped foot on Marshall's campus.

"When I first arrived to campus, I knew I had to find a way to assert myself on the team especially having young guys around me, so I learned how to be a big brother to them on the court and off the court," Mbao said.

Herrion said one aspect of life that sets Mbao apart from the rest of the Herd is that Mbao has been thousands of miles from home in the United States on his own for six years since he went to Stonebridge Prep.

Mbao said he took on the role of being a leader even before he came to the United States.

"I was always a soldier of my own because I grew up

in a family where I knew everything was going to be tough, especially knowing my dad was about to retire and nobody else had graduated college so I had to step up and take the responsibility of my dad and be able to help out with my family," Mbao said. "So that's what I did when I was young. I left the country to help out my parents and my young brother getting an education."

Mbao said he graduated last May and is about to complete a second degree this coming May, an accomplishment his family and friends could not be more proud of.

"Where I'm from, out of maybe 20 friends, maybe three or four of them graduated from college," Mbao said. "They were surprised to see I graduated from college not only one time, but twice, with two different degrees."

Mbao said he does not have any current plans for his future, besides wrapping up his second degree. He will celebrate his senior night by taking on the Charlotte 49ers alongside the rest of his Thundering Herd teammates for one last time inside the Henderson Center.

Braxton Crisp can be contacted at crisp23@marshall.edu.

Lakers' Nash wants to be back next season

By MIKE BRESNAHN
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

There was a gust of certainty Monday, a rarity in one of the most uneasy seasons in Los Angeles Lakers history.

Steve Nash clearly wants to return next season. "I want to come back for sure," he said Monday.

It's a longshot he'll even be back this season from recurring back soreness, but he's already looking to the future, where he's scheduled to earn \$9.7 million in 2014-15 as the final part of a three-year, \$28 million contract.

The Lakers have until Sept. 1 to determine whether they want to waive Nash via the "stretch provision," in which his salary is spread out over the next three years. Or they can bring him back for one more season and try to play him while paying him.

There's also a small chance Nash obtains a medical retirement from the NBA during the off-season, in which case the Lakers still have to pay him but his salary does not count toward the cap.

Nash has recurring nerve damage in his back that sidelined him almost three months earlier this season. The nerve irritation starts in the back and presents itself in his hamstrings, making it feel as if they're strained or pulled.

Nash, who turned 40 on Feb. 7, was enlightened when he had 19 points and five assists against Philadelphia on his birthday.

But he's averaging only 7.6 points and 4.7 assists in 10 games.

"When you look at an 18-year career, and like, one game against Philly?" he said.

"But it meant so much to me just to say, 'OK, I showed I can do it still. Can I sustain it?' And I haven't been able to prove that yet.

"On one hand, it was extremely rewarding because it was (after) 10 months of pounding my head against the wall. ... But then on the other hand, it was frustrating because it was right there and you take a knee on that old fracture and nerve root ... it shows how tenuous it all is."

Nash reinjured his back in the Lakers' next game after Philadelphia. He played one more game after that but left at halftime and hasn't returned since then.

He did some light shooting the last few days but ruled out practicing with the team this week.



If he returned this season, he didn't mind being a backup, he said. Kendall Marshall and Jordan Farmar have split time at point guard in recent games.

"I'm totally up for whatever they want to do," Nash said.

HENRY RETURNS

Xavier Henry was 0 for 2 Monday in the Lakers' 107-106 victory against Portland, his first NBA action since missing 28 games because of a bone bruise and cartilage abnormalities in his right knee.

Henry's first two shots were blocked out of bounds and he played five minutes.

He spent two games with the Lakers' Development League affiliate last week and still needed to get in game shape after not playing since Dec. 29.

He was averaging 10.1 points and 21.8 minutes before Monday.

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EDITORIAL

Mental health of soldiers should be a priority

A study released Monday in the monthly medical journal, JAMA Psychiatry, reveals startling information about the mental health of American soldiers.

The study, which according to CNN was the largest study of mental health conducted among the U.S. military, found 1 in 5 soldiers had a common mental illness, such as ADHD, depression or panic disorder before enlisting.

It was noted that pre-enlistment rates of conditions such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder were matched with those of civilians, but during service the rates were higher.

Another study tracked the suicide rates of nearly 1 million soldiers between 2004

and 2009. This study found an increase in the rates of suicide among soldiers who had been deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq.

However, it also found an increase in suicide rates among soldiers who had not been deployed during that time.

The Army does screen recruits, and in the past has been psychologically healthier than the rest of society because of the fitness standards and healthcare access, but as this study found, there has been a significant increase that cannot be ignored.

It was reported that many men and women admitted to developing new conditions while in the service on top of their

preexisting ones.

Given the severity of this information, the Army needs to do more to ensure the health of its soldiers.

It is true that part of this relies on the honesty of the enlistees. If they think they'll be turned away, chances of them disclosing history of a past mental illness are greatly diminished.

However, more should be done on the Army's part to screen for these illnesses and provide proper treatment for the soldiers who need it.

These men and women sacrifice a great deal for the country, and it is up to the Army to make sure it does all it can to help them.

Online Polls

You Can Be Herd

Do you think the university should reevaluate its school closing policy?	Which film will win the Academy Award for Best Picture?	
Yes, it's difficult for commuters. No, the current policy is fine. I wouldn't come to class anyway.	"12 Years A Slave" "Gravity" "American Hustle"	56% 26% 19%

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

COLUMN

How to strike at Putin where it hurts

By GLENN GARVIN
THE MIAMI HERALD (MCT)

Future historians may recall Barack Obama's foreign policy as the Clash of the Cliches: Every time the president draws a red line, he winds up painting himself into the corner.

He did it with Syria, making bellicose threats he couldn't back up, and now he's done it with Ukraine. After Obama warned Russia to back off — "there will be consequences if people step over the line" — Vladimir Putin snorted in disdain and invaded the country anyway.

So what are the consequences? None in sight. Neither the United States nor anyone else is going to get into a war over who controls Crimea. And if Obama proposes economic sanctions, he'll find himself pretty much going it alone.

Russia, as the world's third-largest producer of both oil and natural gas, is just too important for most countries to play economic hardball with. The Western European nations who are most dismayed by Putin's adventuring in Ukraine are also the least able to do anything about it: More than a third of their natural gas is supplied by Russia.

through fracking, and stop blocking construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Fracking — short for hydraulic fracturing, a process that frees natural gas by injecting pressurized liquids into the ground — has been around since the 1940s. But new technologies introduced over the past 15 years have made it cheaper and more effective. The result is a production boom that has cut natural-gas prices by as much as 75 percent.

The boom has already taken a huge bite out of the profits from Russia's natural-gas exports. And it could do more if Obama would tell the Department of Interior to quit monkeying around with the regulations on fracking on the one-third of America's natural-gas well located on federal land.

The Keystone XL pipeline would move 830,000 of barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to Texas refineries, from where it would head outward onto world markets, offering another (and more politically stable) source of petroleum. When oil supplies go up, prices go down, and the Russians take a hit.

But Obama has been dragging his feet for years on approval of the pipeline, even after the latest of the hoops he set for approval — a State Department report on the pipeline's environmental impact — gave it a clean bill of health.

This is pointless pandering to the Democratic Party's Lud-dite left, which opposes anything more mechanized than sunshine. The Canadians are not going to leave the oil in the ground to gratify American hippies; they'll just build a pipeline to their own west coast — or, maybe, ship the oil via rail, a far more risky proposition. But that will take years. Why not leverage the pipeline's foreign-policy value now?

Oil and gas grew to be 70 percent of Russia's exports and funded 7 percent annual economic growth. The burgeoning Russian middle class, in return, was willing to overlook Putin's antidemocratic quirks. If the good times end, so will his support. Ronald Reagan would have figured that out. How to strike at Putin where it hurts

Will Obama?



MCT CAMPUS

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

Time for talks with Venezuela

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS (MCT)

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro inherited all his socialist predecessor's disastrous economic baggage but none of the charisma that helped Hugo Chavez escape popular blame for skyrocketing inflation, exploding crime and consumer goods shortages. Oil-rich Venezuela, once Latin America's economic powerhouse, now lacks the ability to provide its citizens with basics such as toilet paper, and people are understandably furious.

Maduro is in deep trouble, and he knows it. With minimal ability to rally the masses to his defense the way Chavez did masterfully until his death last year, Maduro is confronting increasingly violent protests across the country. Barricaded streets and bonfires give major Venezuelan cities the look of chaotic Cairo or Kiev.

Venezuela might be South America's oldest democracy, but it's behaving more like a totalitarian state, with news media blackouts, mass arrests, torture allegations and police-backed vigilantes

instigating violent confrontations. Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez is in prison. Between 13 and 50 people have died in violence.

The United States can ill afford to stand by and watch as Venezuela careens toward economic collapse and bloodshed on the streets. This isn't the Arab world or Eastern Europe. This is our neighborhood.

Washington has worked too hard, for decades, to quell civil wars, forge free trade accords and strengthen democratic structures to allow a return of the instability wrought by military coups and socialist dictatorships.

Maduro, in what seems a desperate attempt to distract Venezuelans from their real problems, recently expelled three U.S. diplomats, prompting Washington to retaliate with the expulsion of three Venezuelan diplomats. The two countries have not exchanged resident ambassadors since 2010.

Despite those tensions, Maduro now says he wants to have a "high-level

meeting" with the Obama administration aimed at reducing diplomatic tensions. Washington, having been burned in the past by Chavez, might instinctively recoil at the thought of engagement. But this is the time for dialogue, not flame-throwing.

Venezuelans need only look at the experience of their war-torn neighbor, Colombia, to recognize the dangers ahead. Like nascent democracies such as Iraq or Egypt, the Chavez-Maduro governments have confused victory at the polls with a winner-take-all mandate to sweep the opposition into obscurity.

That's not how pluralist democracy works. The opposition needs a seat at the leadership table and true representation in Venezuela's legislature and judiciary. Chavez's Soviet-style command economy must be loosened to allow greater economic freedom.

If Maduro is averse to U.S. lecturing on the subject, President Barack Obama should consider bringing other leaders into the discussion, such as Mexican

THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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.

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Ellen DeGeneres takes a selfie with attendees during the 86th annual Academy Awards Sunday at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Los Angeles.
ROBERT GAUTHIER | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Social media thanked for helping Oscars achieve audience gold

By SCOTT COLLINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

The TV ratings were up, but some people wondered if Ellen DeGeneres #overdidit with all the #socialmedia at the #Oscars2014.

Sunday’s 86th Academy Awards telecast on ABC broke with tradition and reverse-engineered itself for the Twitter generation, with host DeGeneres returning after a seven-year hiatus to order in pizza as a joke for the attendees and, in the night’s most familiar image, tweeting out a selfie posed with Bradley Cooper, Meryl Streep, Angelina Jolie and other stars.

The gambit appears to have worked: An average of 43 million total viewers tuned in to TV’s biggest awards show, according to Nielsen. That was up 6 percent compared with last year’s much-criticized ceremony hosted by “Family Guy” overseer Seth MacFarlane. ABC estimated that nearly 72 million viewers overall watched at least six minutes of the program.

In the key demographic of adults ages 18 to 49 that largely determines the rates advertisers pay for commercial time, the Oscars earned a 12.9 rating, essentially flat with last year’s 13.0. Among men under age 35, the ceremony climbed 4 percent and it was up 8 percent in teens.

But it was in the world of Twitter and social-media sharing where these Oscars — beamed live from the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood — really shone. During the telecast 11.2 million tweets poured forth from 2.8 million unique users, according to Social Guide — a 75 percent increase from last year’s activity.

In taking her selfie with Streep and the others, DeGeneres invited viewers to retweet the image. It became the first image to be retweeted more than 2 million times, briefly crashing the microblogging platform. After such a stunt, the ultimate best picture win for the historical epic “12 Years a Slave” seemed almost anticlimactic.

“That was really gold, that was beautiful,” Steve Minichini, chief innovation and growth officer at ad firm TargetCast, said of the star-studded selfie.

“It was a great example of how social media can be incorporated into a live telecast, encouraging viewers to tune into the show and take part in it,” said Brad Adgate, an analyst for Horizon Media in New York.

Of course, it’s hardly certain that social media deserves the credit for Sunday’s viewership gain. “Gravity,” one of the best-picture nominees, was a bona fide box office hit, grossing

more than \$270 million in North America alone. The promise of celebrities such as Sandra Bullock, Brad Pitt and Jolie striding through the aisles at the Dolby didn’t hurt the tune-in either.

The Oscar producers sounded satisfied on Monday.

“Our experiences with producing the Oscars last year and then ‘The Sound of Music Live’ in December showed us the impact of social media and real-time viewership on ratings,” producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan wrote in a joint statement. “Fortunately for us, not only is Ellen a fantastic entertainer, she is extremely adept at using her social media platforms to expand and engage her fans ... It seems our plan worked out very well indeed!”

But in a paradox that points out the difficulties in trying to appeal to audiences on multiple media platforms these days, the Twitter stunts may not have necessarily made for great TV, Minichini added.

“From a social media standpoint, it was a huge win,” he said. “But it was really geared for social media. It made for a boring live telecast.”

That point was echoed by many TV critics. The Los Angeles Times’ Mary McNamara found DeGeneres’ desultory hosting style “not

as hilarious as many people clearly thought it would be.” The Hollywood Reporter’s Tim Goodman was scathing, calling the three-hour-plus show boring and saying that by the end, DeGeneres “seemed to have given up entirely.”

Whether an event counts as great TV, however, may matter less and less these days. Increasingly, the big ratings go to live shows that know how to capitalize on stunts and heighten suspense on social media — exactly the playbook DeGeneres and the Oscar producers used on Sunday.

This year’s Golden Globes was the most-watched in a decade, with 20.9 million tuning in to see the tweet-worthy antics of co-hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. The Super Bowl set a record of 112 million total viewers. And the just-concluded Sochi Olympics on NBC drew more than 21 million viewers for 17 straight nights.

The Oscars now seem to have ridden the same wave. And that means there will likely be more to come, Minichini said.

Sunday’s selfies may “be a good formulaic approach for hosts and drive what kind of stunts they pull” in the future, he said.

HILLARY
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It’s a little like Amazon, except shipping is always free and, of course, every product promotes Clinton.

Dick Harpootlian, a longtime Democratic activist in South Carolina who’s an ardent supporter of another potential candidate, Vice President Joe Biden, dismissed Ready for Hillary’s efforts, arguing that it’s way too early for organizations such as this, when Clinton hasn’t even decided to run. “Maybe a fan club is appropriate for a boy band but not candidate for president of the United States,” he mocked.

Clinton, 66, says she hasn’t made up her mind about running and expects to decide later this year. But the former first lady, U.S. senator from New York and secretary of state is already the presumed front-runner for her party’s nomination in 2016, dominating the potential field of candidates by huge margins.

Former Clinton advisers formed Ready for Hillary last year — just after she stepped down as the nation’s top diplomat — as a way to recruit volunteers from across the nation for a potential campaign. The group claims to have nearly 2 million supporters lined up.

Ready for Hillary set up the store after witnessing the success of Barack Obama, who was then a rival for the Democratic nomination and the first national candidate to sell merchandise as a way to lure low-dollar donors and attract supporters. The group consulted those who ran the Obama store in 2008.

“There are a lot of great lessons that came out of 2008 and 2012,”

said Adam Parkhomenko, a former Clinton campaign staffer who’s the executive director of Ready for Hillary.

Candidates have long handed out bumper stickers and buttons to supporters at rallies to try to create enthusiasm and promote their campaigns. In more recent years, businesses got into the act and began selling knickknacks with candidates’ logos as money-making ventures.

In 2008, Obama’s campaign upended the system, selling its own merchandise as a way to build passion, raise money and recruit volunteers.

“It was a total turnaround,” said Peter Fenn, a professor at George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management who owns a Democratic political firm.

The book “Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime” recalls the exact moment when Clinton realizes that Obama has surpassed her in fundraising in part because of a plethora of low-dollar donors, many of whom bought his merchandise. “Why don’t we have merchandise being sold out back?” Clinton angrily said to her national finance director at a Hamptons fundraiser.

Ready for Hillary took that lesson and expanded on it. Two store employees sell 40 different items that go way beyond your typical T-shirts, posters and mugs: water bottles for \$20.16; neon Ready for Hillary Sharpies in yellow, turquoise, pink, lime green and orange; and cocktail napkins imprinted with Clinton quotes. Says one: “I really do hope that we have a woman president in my lifetime.”

Whiskerless hipsters getting facial hair transplants

By LISA GUTIERREZ
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Heads up, hipsters: Your brethren in Brooklyn are getting facial hair transplants to fill in the bald spots on their trendy beards. Yes, it can be done.

New York media report that men are paying as much as \$8,500 to have plastic surgeons add hair to their faces.

Apparently patchy whiskers just won’t do in the hipster world.

(The trend is also popular with female-to-male transgenders, Hasidic Jews, and baby-faced dudes.)

The procedure is straightforward: A plastic surgeon removes hair from another part of the body — head, chest, wherever — and implants it in the face.

A website that follows neighborhood news in New York — www.dnainfo.com/new-york/ — appears to have spotted the trend. The procedures range from filling in bare patches to whole beard construction.

“Brooklyn is probably the nucleus of the trend, it’s the hipster ‘look’ guys want. If you have a spotty beard, and you let it grow out, it looks sloppy,” Jeffrey Epstein, a Midtown-based plastic surgeon, told The New York Post.

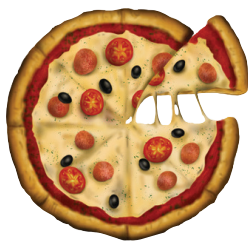
He’s performing two or three beard transplants a week, he said. A couple of years ago he did maybe a handful.

Sometimes, patients bring in pictures of celebrities and male models they want to look like. George Clooney, Ryan Gosling and Brad Pitt are most popular. Some guys want the Tom Selleck moustache, too.

One transplant patient told the Post that he was happy that he didn’t have to fill in his scrawny beard with an eyebrow pencil anymore.

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NEVER 'LET IT GO'

The "Frozen" anthem and Oscar-winning song "Let it Go" has been covered, revamped and performed on countless platforms. Star of the film, Idina Menzel, joined "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon Monday to add one more jam session to YouTube. Singing with Fallon and the Roots backing her up with toy instrument including blocks, bongos and Casio keyboards, Menzel happily belted the song, triangle in hand.

A pizza delivery Edgar Martirosyan will never forget

By AMY KAUFMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

When Edgar Martirosyan showed up at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday with a stack of pizza boxes in hand, he thought he was delivering a few pies to some hardworking Oscar staffers.

But Martirosyan, co-owner of Big Mama's and Papa's Pizzeria on Sunset Boulevard, soon found himself being led onto the Oscar stage by host Ellen DeGeneres. With 43 million viewers watching at home, he was instructed to hand out slices to some of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Julia Roberts and Jared Leto.

"I was shocked," Martirosyan said in a phone interview Monday afternoon. "When I realized I was onstage, I didn't understand what was going on. Like, 'What am I doing here?'"

The 30-year-old's journey to Hollywood & Highland began Saturday, he said, when he received a call from an Oscar staffer asking whether he would be able to handle a delivery to the Dolby the following day. He was told he'd be getting the order after 5 p.m. Sunday.

When Sunday evening rolled around, Martirosyan was slammed. He doesn't usually deliver pizzas himself — that stopped five years ago, when he went from an employee to co-owner of the Hollywood outpost of the pizzeria. But because of how busy it was, he decided to help out and drive over to the Dolby himself.

Even though he had to pass through a number of security barriers, he never imagined that he would end up as part of the telecast.

"They told me it was going to be for the writers," he said.

When he finally got backstage, he was told to wait, and suddenly DeGeneres appeared. She introduced herself to him, and then the host told Martirosyan to follow her, without saying where they were going. She didn't give him any instructions on how to behave or what to say, and before he knew it he was in front of the Hollywood elite.

Born in Armenia, Martirosyan moved to Moscow at age 10; there, he grew up watching some Hollywood films, including Roberts' "Pretty Woman." Needless to say, he was star struck when he found himself handing her a slice of cheese pizza. "She was actually more beautiful in person," he said with a laugh.

And then, just as quickly as he'd found himself in the spotlight, he was back at work. When he walked into the pizza shop, his employees greeted him with screams. Reporters from local news outlets and paparazzi had also gathered outside the restaurant.

On Monday morning, Martirosyan filmed an interview with DeGeneres for her talk show in Burbank, while his Facebook page was covered with comments from friends congratulating him on the Oscars appearance.

Elsewhere on Facebook, Big Mama's & Papa's — which has 20 locations in California — was touting the accomplishments of the franchise owner.

Referring to his journey as the "American Dream Come True!," a post described how Martirosyan went from delivery driver to franchise owner.

In fact, Martirosyan said, he started out even lower on the food chain at Big Mama's — handing out fliers on the street on behalf of the business.

"I always loved to cook and had a real interest in learning to make pizzas," he recalled. "So I became a cook, and then a manager, and then an owner. Business wasn't that good — it wasn't that clean when we came, and I'm really picky. So I started to clean everything up and grow the business."

As for how all the attention from the Oscars would affect sales, Martirosyan said he was trying not to get ahead of himself.

"Of course, extra orders are very good," he said. "But I'm very calm. I'm not going crazy now. I'm really chill. This is just another, regular busy day."

Edgar Martirosyan delivers pizza to the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center during the 86th annual Academy Awards.



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