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Supreme Court Stays Execution Of Texas Man In Racially Charged Case

Comments (3,587) | [Rick Perry](#)

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[Blanche Lincoln... Dan Rather...](#)
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Arianna Huffington: A Tale of Two Cities: Introducing HuffPost DC

I'm delighted to announce the launch of our latest local section, [HuffPost DC](#). When we look at Washington -- really look at it, beyond the grand city of popular imagination -- we see a city of incredible contrasts. On one side is the glitz of official Washington -- the D.C. of formal state dinners and big money fundraisers. On the other side is a city with close to 11 percent unemployment

Boehner Blasts Obama's Jobs Plan, Attacks 'Short-Term Gimmicks'



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-- a number that more than doubles in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. A city experiencing the dislocation of African Americans in historically black neighborhoods. Often lost in the swirl of D.C. politics are communities that grapple daily with poverty and the lasting effects of discrimination and segregation, paying the price for D.C.'s distorted public image that omits huge numbers of the city's residents, with sometimes tragic consequences. At its heart, Washington, D.C. offers a tale of two cities. And it is this tale that animates our new section.

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FEATURED POSTS

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MEDIA Cable News Debate Coverage Is Hurting Democracy

Bob Cesca, 9/15/11

Producer, Editor of BobCesca.com

The cable news media has gone from simply cracking gaming and sports metaphors to actually becoming a *game*, with politicians as the contestants and a rotating guest panel of snickering propagandists and "analysts" as the judges.

[Read Post](#) | [Comments \(89\)](#)

ADS FOR GOOD

Join Me in the Huddle to Fight Hunger

Joe Montana, 09.15.2011
Retired NFL Quarterback; Domestic Hunger Activist

One out of every 6 Americans doesn't know where their next meal is going to come from. It is unconscionable that anyone should be facing food insecurity in this land of plenty, which is why all of us should do our part to ensure no one has to go hungry again.

[Read Post](#) | [Comments \(9\)](#)

POLITICS The Training Mission You Don't Hear About

Dan Rather, 9/15/11

Host, 'Dan Rather Reports'

In talking to military leaders -- both Coalition and Afghan -- I sensed an unmistakable optimism that the Afghans would be able to stand up so that the Americans can go home at the end of 2014.

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Made A Mistake.. Obama's Bad News

[Blanche Lincoln](#): Avoid Extremes to Solve our Nation's Problems

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Obama Takes Social Security Cuts Off The Table



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U.S. Takes Lonely Path In Opposing All Forms Of Palestinian Recognition



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Defense Secretary Warns Military Cuts Could Swell Unemployment Rate



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NEW YORK The Best NYC Sports Bars To Watch Football



GREEN
Should Candidates Who Don't Believe in Science Be Disqualified From Serving as President?

Heather Taylor-Miesle, 9/15/11

Director, NRDC Action Fund

There has always been a place in American society for the fringe dwellers -- the religious zealots and the conspiracy theorists and the committed Luddites. But that place is not in the White House.

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PARENTS
Guilt, Guilt, Guilt

Devon Corneal, 9/15/11

Lawyer

Someone told me that once I had my son, I'd forever be afraid that something bad would happen to him. What I had not anticipated was the guilt. The never-ending, constant and exhausting guilt.

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LATINO VOICES
Lost, Abused and Neglected for a Profit

Axel W. Caballero, 9/15/11

Founder, Director/Producer - Cuentame

Why do we leave our immigration system in the hands of corporations? How many more people are suffering and lost in a system that values profit over justice?

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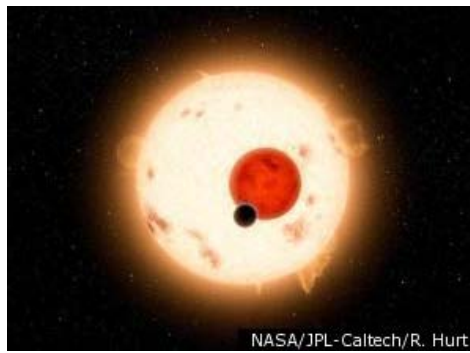


POLITICS
GOP Attack on Pa. Democracy

Sen. Daylin Leach, 9/15/11

State senator from Pennsylvania's 17th District

Elections in a democracy are sacred. Changing the rules created by our founders in order to benefit



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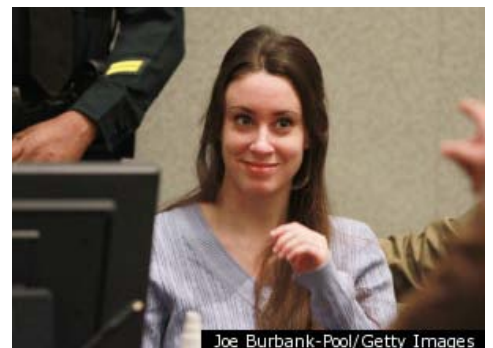
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Can You Catch Me Now? Fan Snags Foul Ball While On Phone

one political party is profoundly wrong. It desecrates our history and is a repugnant attack on the very core of our nationhood.

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GREEN
Obama: Did I Say I'd Restore Science to Its 'Rightful Place?'

Shawn Lawrence Otto, 9/15/11

Author of "Fool Me Twice," science advocate, filmmaker and Cofounder of Sciencedebate.org

President Obama pledged to restore science to its rightful place -- but he didn't say just what he thought that rightful place to be.

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POLITICS
What to Make of Sarah Palin's Alleged Cocaine Use

Tony Newman, 9/15/11

Director of Media Relations, Drug Policy Alliance

I have mixed feelings when I hear about Palin and other politicians' drug use. The revelations are beneficial by helping shatter the myth that if you try drugs you are going to be an unproductive person who ruins your life. But the hypocrisy is infuriating.

[Read Post](#) | [Comments \(191\)](#)



ENTERTAINMENT
Theater: *Follies* Grand and Beautiful But...

Michael Giltz, 9/15/11

Freelance writer

This is the best-acted, best-sung production of *Follies* I've seen and yet it's still not the *Follies* of my dreams.

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GREEN
Praise the Lord and Pass the Tenth Amendment

Carl Pope, 9/15/11

Chairman, Sierra Club

Perry may strut, but he's dangerously passive -- with a reckless willingness to attribute the fruits of this laziness to divine will.

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ENTERTAINMENT
Brad Pitt -- You're Pathetic For Calling Your Marriage to Jennifer Aniston 'Pathetic'!

Bonnie Fuller, 9/15/11

President & Editor-in-Chief, HollywoodLife.com

Brad -- why did you feel the need to be so cruel to Jen in your new interview in *Parade* magazine? Why did you blame her for making *you* feel pathetic?

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POLITICS

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North Korean Defector Arrested On Suspicion Of Plotting Attack



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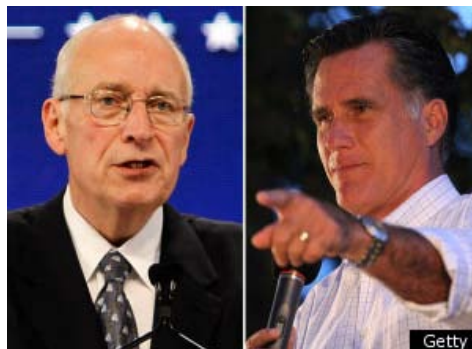
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30 Years Late: Congress Creates Bipartisan HIV/AIDS Caucus



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Unemployment Back To Being Nation's Primary Concern



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Steven Soderbergh Enlists Legendary Street Artist For 'Contagion' Poster

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Marilyn Monroe's Ghost, Other Dead Stars' Ghosts To Be Summoned At Celebrity Seance



Avoid Extremes to Solve our Nation's Problems

Blanche Lincoln, 9/15/11

Former U.S. Senator (D-Ak); Chair, NFIB's Small Businesses for Sensible Regulations campaign

The sooner we remove incendiary politics from our nation's rulemaking process, the sooner we can restore the health of our economy -- and our political culture.

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BOOKS

Q&A With Nicole Krauss, Author of *Great House* and *The History of Love*

Elana Estrin, 9/15/11

Features writer at the Harry Ransom Center

While studying art history in graduate school, novelist Nicole Krauss spent hours in the library researching Rembrandt, only to find that she preferred imagining the details of his life instead.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Review: *Straw Dogs* (2011)

Scott Mendelson, 9/15/11

Film Critic

If not for the fact that it were a remake of a beloved 1971 Sam Peckinpah film, Rod Lurie's *Straw Dogs* would be a prime example of what we claim we want in our popcorn entertainment.

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FOOD

Duff Goldman: The Ace of Cakes On A Sugar High

Regina Varolli, 9/15/11

Freelance Writer

A lot has changed for Duff Goldman over the past year. The *Ace of Cakes* has gone off on a motorcycle powered *Sugar High*, becoming a bi-coastal frequent flyer who told me, "I travel so much I don't have a time zone anymore."

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POLITICS

A President Standing in Quicksand

Joseph A. Palermo, 9/15/11

Associate Professor of American History, California State University, Sacramento

The political wizards around Obama do not understand how demoralizing the Obama presidency has been for his most enthusiastic



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Republican Senators Introduce Own Bills To 'Fix' No Child Left Behind



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Senate Passes Disaster Relief Plan, Sets Up Battle With House GOP



House GOP Seeks Cuts To Auto Industry To Pay For Funds

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Republican E-Verify Bill Faces Growing Internal Opposition



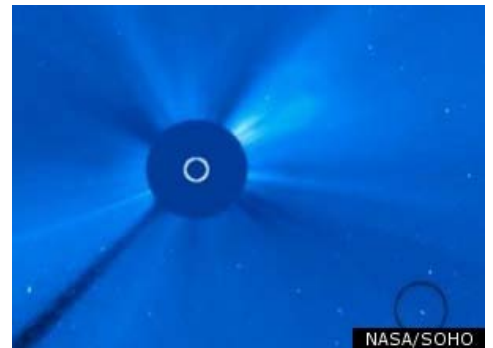
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New Jersey To Women: Keep Your Top On

supporters. Their candidate turned out to be a Chicago pol with a veneer of populism.

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MEDIA

Spongebob Squarepants vs. Caillou: Both of These Things Are Not Like the Other

David Kleeman, 9/15/11

President, American Center for Children and Media

It's impossible to conduct a thoughtful debate, or to build family media literacy, if we allow the conversation to be hijacked by pseudo-science that lends itself to flashy headlines.

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MEDIA

From Arab Spring to America Today, Social Media Enables Witness-Reporters

Laura Paull, 9/14/11

Supervising Editor for Citizen Journalism at the Huffington Post

As an editor for citizen journalism on The Huffington Post, I have the opportunity to invite people everywhere, of all ages and of every status, to tell the story of America as we attempt to carry on our electoral traditions in an atmosphere of social division and widespread despair.

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TECH

Luke Skywalker's World

Seth Shostak, 9/15/11

Senior Astronomer, SETI Institute

The Kepler 16 star system is nearly 200 times closer than Tatooine is reputed to be. But there's this difference: this planet is for real.

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GREEN

The Global Water Crisis

H. David Nahai and Jim Thebaut,

9/15/11

The water supply and sanitation situation around the world is abysmal. Currently, 1.5 million children under 5 die of preventable water related diseases every year, around 900 million people have no access to safe drinking water, and 2.6 billion lack adequate sanitation.

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The Constitution We Nearly Had

Robert J. Spitzer, 9/15/11

Distinguished Service Professor, Political Science, SUNY Cortland

Imagine a very different Constitution -- one where Congress could kill any state law, where a twenty-six member Senate controlled treaty-making with other nations, and where the president's veto was exercised jointly with the Supreme Court.

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GREEN Energy Security Is Fundamental to Global Security

Bill Richardson, 9/15/11

Former U.S. Energy Secretary, Governor of New Mexico and UN Ambassador

In the midst of this year's "Arab Spring," approximately 149 countries formalized the creation of the International Renewable Energy Agency called IRENA, a relatively new entity designed to accelerate renewable energy adoption.

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POLITICS One Betrayal Too Many

Robert Scheer, 9/15/11

Editor, Truthdig.com; Author, 'The Great American Stickup'

It's getting too late to give President Barack Obama a pass on the economy. Sure, he inherited an enormous mess from George W., but it's time for Democrats to admit that their guy bears considerable responsibility for not turning things around.

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EDUCATION iPads and Social Media in the Classroom?

Candy Spelling, 9/14/11

Author

While I understand the real-time digital stream may create a safe harbor for students uncomfortable expressing themselves, it seems to me students are missing valuable lessons in real-life social skills.

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MacGregor Thomson, 9/15/11

Community Standards Manager, Huffington Post

Our new Collections feature, now available to all



Michael McAuliff

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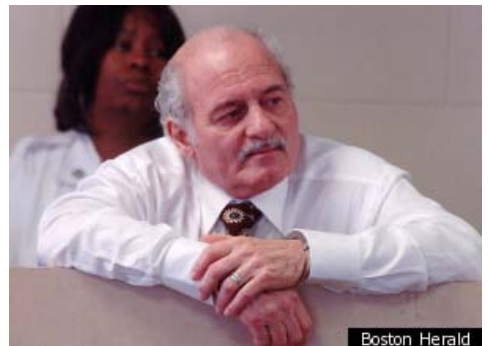


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Michael Giltz

Freelance writer

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FOLLIES *** 1/2 out of ****
MARQUIS THEATRE

This is the best-acted, best-sung production of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Follies* I've seen and yet it's still not the *Follies* of my dreams. It's an elaborate, wildly expensive show to mount when you follow the vision of that fabled 1971 edition that was housed in the Winter Garden where *Mamma Mia!* now holds court. *Follies* is so daunting in its size that the show is much more popular as a staple of all-star concerts. And no wonder -- the score is filled with one terrific Sondheim number after another. That's not the only reason *Follies* works so well in that context. At heart, it's a very quiet,

intimate, heartbreaker of a show and it should be seen in close-up both psychologically and literally. But all those showgirls and feathers and costumes cost a lot of money, so here is *Follies* in a space perfect for a spectacle like *Showboat*.

I can't stop imagining this cast in a stripped down production where you don't have a three-tiered massive set, where you don't have ghosts wandering around all over the place but (mostly) imagine them and where we can savor the pros in an atmosphere like the casual reunion we're supposed to witness. Instead the show's atmosphere is rather formal and grand, in the style of the follies of old. Those follies went out of style because they lacked any emotional oomph; some day *Follies* will learn the same lesson. (I bet the Chocolate Factory in London does it right some day.)

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This show is all about shattered dreams so I suppose it's appropriate for me to cling onto the fantasy of a small, stripped-down *Follies*, just like one-time showgirl Sally (Bernadette Peters) holds onto the dream of running off with the handsome and successful Ben when Ben isn't remotely interested in anything more than a quickie.

Sally's illusions will be shattered at a 1971 reunion party of the Wiseman troupe, the performers who starred in a Ziegfeld Follies-style annual spectacle between the wars. Act One is truly astonishing as the troupers gather around and inevitably break out some of their classic routines. What a challenge for Sondheim. Not only does he have to write songs in a bygone style, he needs to make us to believe these are classics and yet have them familiar enough to let us buy these performances are old friends in a way for everyone involved. Needless to say, he succeeds.

The nostalgia piles on in fascinating ways: we get the artificial nostalgia of hearing brand-new songs presented as oldies but goodies and we get the genuine nostalgia of seeing veterans of a certain age enjoy yet another (and perhaps one last) chance to strut their stuff on stage, bringing with them all the history of their long love affair with the biz. That's achieved effortlessly with a trio of tunes. Susan Watson and Don Correia have great fun with the novelty number "Rain On The Roof." Mary Beth Piele lands "Ah, Paris!" And then Jane Houdyshell (who wins over the crowd every moment she's on the stage with practiced ease) knocks it out of the park with "Broadway Baby."

In between those "performances" of old we learn of the tangled relationship between Sally and Ben (a very good Ron Raines) and the miserable unhappiness of their respective spouses Buddy (Danny Burstein) and Phyllis (an excellent Jan Maxwell). Then it's topped by an even better show-stopper when Terri White leads the whole gang in the sensational "Who's That Woman." It's so marvelous a scattered number of people in the audience bolted for the exits, assuming they'd just seen the act one finale. Nope, that song is followed by Elaine Paige embodying "I'm Still Here" (she triumphs by letting that song sell itself). Even that's not the end of the act, since as I said *Follies* truly yearns to be a gentle show. So after those two crowd-pleasers, it comes to a poignant end with the duet "Too Many Mornings" and Buddy looking on from the wings as his wife Sally and Ben indulge in a kiss.

What a first act, filled with so many performers you want to see each and every one of these actors in their own show, soon. You could go home happy. (Indeed, I think one of the greatest nights of theater imaginable would be seeing the first act of *Follies*, followed by the first act of *Into The Woods* and then the first act of *Sunday In The Park With George*. Hey, a fella can dream, can't he?)

Act Two explodes all the fantasies indulged in by those antiquated musical revues. Instead of old vaudeville numbers, we get new vaudeville numbers that use the old forms to tell complex, wrenching tales of broken hearts. Intellectually, I understand it. But it's rather static in a way because most of the songs tell us what we already learned in Act One, albeit with a little more self-awareness. But what songs! "You're Gonna Love Tomorrow," "The God-Why-Don't-You-Love-Me-Blues," "The Story Of Lucy and Jessie," "Live, Laugh, Love" and of course "Losing My Mind" are razzle-dazzlers, even if emotionally we're mostly spinning our wheels until Ben finally admits he's desperately unhappy at the finale and



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reaches out for Phyllis one more time.

So yes the production may be so top-heavy (as Sondheim demands) and so grand in the follies style that it's always fighting an uphill battle for the intimacy the story demands. The design is exactly what Sondheim describes but it did feel like a redux of the Roundabout revival a decade ago. The draping of grey curtains was probably the only way to make the modern Marquis feel decrepit, but the general feel was more haunted house (in a hokey way) than faded glory.

But when a musical has this many great songs and this many great performers, it's hard to go wrong. Did I mention much of the cast is mirrored by actors playing their younger selves? This works most beautifully when Rosalind Elias and Leah Horowitz perform the light operetta sort of tune "One More Kiss." The elderly Heidi sings gloriously until the young Heidi appears behind her to belt it out even more beautifully. Soon their voices are intertwined and competing and surging together as the memory of how she could sing in her younger days spurs Heidi on to one last marvelous note. It's truly touching on so many levels.

Jan Maxwell scores brilliantly as Phyllis, nobody's fool even though she's playing the fool for her successful husband. She's more sympathetic than the self-deluded Sally and also has the best lines; Maxwell makes the most of them. She's matched nicely by Raines every step of the way. Burstein is good as Buddy, though not in his big solo number that opens the second act, "The Right Girl." He's very good in the dramatic scenes and the other numbers, but here he just didn't quite hold the stage. (I cruelly kept wondering if Norbert Leo Butz might step in when Burstein moves on.) Bernadette Peters is a pro, of course, but her voice sounded a bit exhausted now that it was a few nights after the exhausting press previews. But no one could fault her skills as an actor. At the end, this bravely low-key show has a stunner of a scene where Peters and Burstein are just onstage alone, saying nothing as she sees her last dream fade away. No dialogue, no song and yet the audience was gripped. So in short a three star performance this night of a four star musical -- divide the difference and let's call it a 3 1/2 star night. But someday....

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Note: Michael Giltz was provided with free tickets to these show with the understanding that he would be writing a review.

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