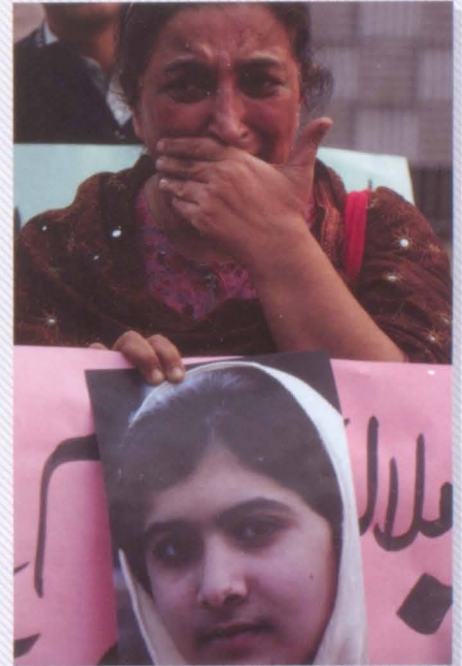


FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE SEASONS, the San Francisco Giants won the World Series when they swept the Detroit Tigers in four games. San Francisco's Pablo Sandoval hit three home runs in Game 1 and was chosen the series MVP.



IT WAS A QUITE A YEAR FOR INDIE ROCK BAND FUN. Their song "We Are Young" hit number one and became the first song ever to have more than 300,000 digital downloads for seven straight weeks. Fun scored another top 10 hit with "Some Nights" then followed it up by receiving six Grammy nominations.



ALABAMA ROLLED to its second straight national title, and third in four years, by defeating Notre Dame, 42-14, in college football's BCS championship game. Running back Eddie Lacy ran for 140 yards and a touchdown, and was chosen one of the game's MVPs.

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE DECRIED the attempted assassination of Malala Yousufzai, 14, of Pakistan by the Taliban. She was gunned down for her outspoken criticism of the Taliban's ban on educating girls. She survived and spent months recovering in a hospital in England.

FACEBOOK INCREASED ITS PRESENCE in our lives. It bought Instagram, the photo-editing and sharing app for Android and iPhone users. It went public and began offering stock, enabling people to own a piece of the company. Facebook put more ads into the news feed of its mobile apps, and analysts waited to see if users adjusted or became annoyed.

