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SU executive elections to be largely unopposed

BY BEN SALES
NEWS EDITOR

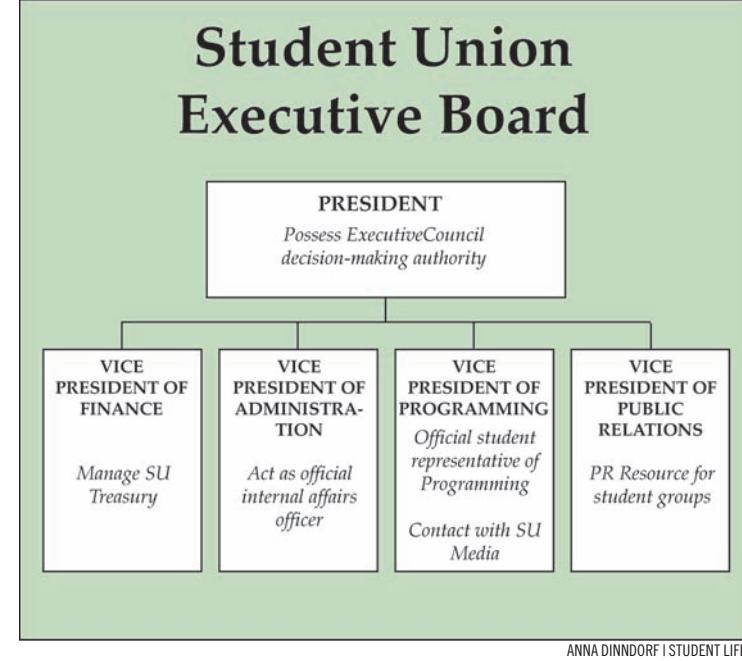
Only one unified slate is known to be running in the Student Union executive elections on March 26-27.

According to those familiar with the race, junior Brittany Perez, sophomore Grant Barbosa, junior Yewande Alimi, junior Neha Tibrewala and sophomore Jeff Nelson—all candidates with Student Union (SU) experience—will be running on one platform. Sophomore Colin Towery, a senator, will oppose Nelson for vice president of administration, but the others will stand alone on the ballot.

While election packets are due on March 6, candidates and those involved in SU do not expect more students to run.

SU President Neil Patel attributes the general lack of opposition to the success of SU's current administration and to the high demands of an executive position.

"Students are satisfied with



the way Student Union has represented them this year, so you see people that have experience running for those positions," said Patel, a senior. "Some students are intimidated by 30- to 35-hour work

weeks."

But Patel does not see the unopposed races as a negative.

"The people we have running have experience between them," he said. "They see

what's working and what's not working. It's good that we have a group of experienced people to be running the organization next year."

Next year's executive board will also be retooled from its current structure. It will include five positions—this year's has four—with new officers for administration, programming and public relations, duties that are now split between the vice president and secretary.

Perez, who now serves as vice president and will be running for president, does not think that the lack of opposition detracts from the legitimacy of those running and thinks that her slate will be the best for implementing the new structure.

"Regardless of what the competition would have been, we would have made a strong slate," she said. "I feel confident about the people I'm working with. It's going to

See SU ELECTIONS, page 2

Relay returns with new focus, raises \$180k

BY SAM GUZIK
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Students, faculty and community members lapped the Francis Field track early into Sunday morning, raising money for cancer research and prevention efforts as a part of the University's annual Relay for Life.

This year, Relay, the primary fundraising event of the American Cancer Society, looked to move beyond remembrance and support for those battling cancer by highlighting the potential to fight back and take action against the disease.

"We are thrilled to see people at Relay, but we'd like to see people working throughout the year to stay healthy," said senior Preerna Raj, one of the Relay co-chairs. "We've really infused our Relay this year with advocacy and action."

The new focus manifested itself through the addition of a ceremony in the last third of the night during which a freshman Eve Samborn spoke about her experiences as a caregiver for a loved one battling cancer and the pledge that she made to fight back against the disease.

According to Samborn, the Fight Back Ceremony represented a positive counterbalance to the Luminaria Ceremony, in which speakers and attendees remember



Participants in Relay for Life this weekend take flags as a part of the Fight Back Ceremony, a new addition to Relay aimed at inspiring Relay participants to take action against cancer throughout the year. For more photos from this year's Relay for Life, be sure to check out the photo spread on page eight.

born during the Fight Back Ceremony.

those who have died as a result of cancer.

The initial fundraising total for the event was \$180,470.73, more than \$100,000 less than last year's total and the lowest total since before 2005.

The final fundraising total will not be known until August 31, the deadline for making donations and receiving pledged matching donations.

See RELAY, page 2

According to Wench, 0.5 percent of the population,

mostly female adolescents, is afflicted with anorexia nervosa, a condition occurring when the patient's weight is below 85 percent of their expected weight at their height. The psychiatric disease also increases the risk of anything from osteoporosis to cardiovascular and gas-

trointestinal problems.

What makes anorexia problematic is its mortality rate, the highest for all psychiatric diseases. In addition, anorexia has only a 25 percent recovery rate.

"It's very overwhelming to think that if you have it and you've had it for over five years, your chance of recov-

Need-blind admissions a vision, but not yet a reality

BY JEREMY ROGOFF
STAFF REPORTER

made commitments to disregard financial need in the admissions process.

The University allocates approximately \$64.3 million to financial aid scholarships.

When donors contribute to the University, they designate their funding toward areas of their choice, limiting scholarship money only to the funds for which it is reserved.

"Only a small part of our endowment is restricted to scholarships," said Witbrodt. "The administration is making a concerted effort to start to raise more scholarship money."

While the University's endowment has grown to \$5.66 billion—a 19 percent boost from the last fiscal year—it still has far fewer financial resources than many of the schools on the need-blind list. Harvard's endowment currently stands at \$34.6 billion, while Stanford's is \$22.5 billion.

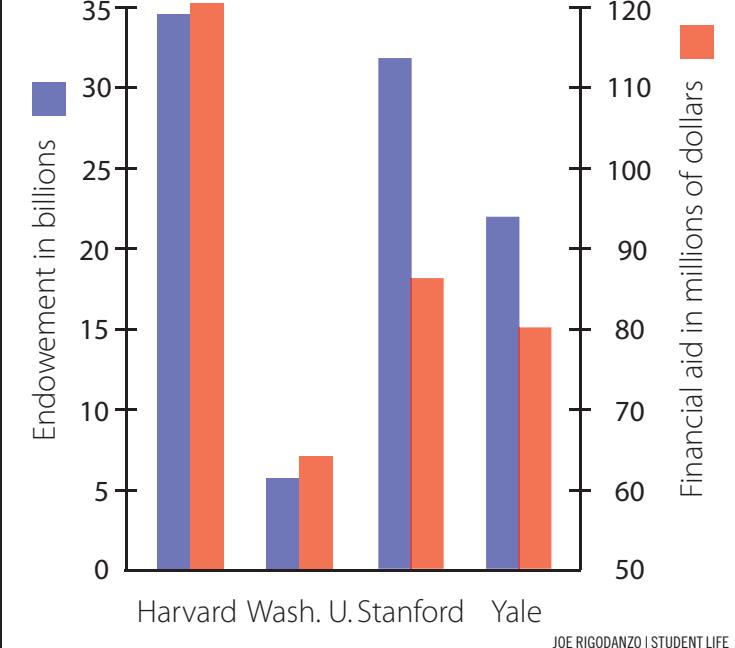
Witbrodt added that most need-aware decisions are made "on the margin," concerning students on the wait-list. He says that partial awareness of financial need played a role in only a few cases.

At "need-blind" institutions, admissions decisions are made independent of financial aid packages. The institution makes a guarantee to provide a package that will allow students to pay for their education.

More than 30 institutions, including Stanford, Harvard and Emory have

See NEED-BLIND, page 2

Endowment compared to Financial Aid



Medical school receives grant for anorexia research

BY MICHELLE STEIN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine have begun searching for effective treatment for anorexia through family therapy.

The research team, led by Professor Denise Wilfley,

director of the Weight Management and Eating Disorders Program at the School of Medicine, Professor Dorothy Van Buren and Professor Rob Wench joined five other institutions in a joint project coordinated by the National Institute of Mental Health.

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is afflicted with anorexia nervosa, a condition occurring when the patient's weight is below 85 percent of their expected weight at their height.

The psychiatric disease also increases the risk of anything from osteoporosis to cardiovascular and gas-

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"It's very overwhelming to

think that if you have it and

you've had it for over five

years, your chance of recov-

ery is very slim," said Wench. "The reason anorexia is so important is the mortality rate."

Improving first-time treatment for anorexia nervosa is important due to the chronic nature of the disease. The more chronic the problem becomes, the harder it is to treat and the higher the

chance becomes for mortality.

If anorexia develops within the first three years, however, the chances of recovery are much better, according to Wench.

That is where the University and its five partner cen-

See ANOREXIA, page 2

Spring Break sports stats

Want the scoop on Bear Sports while you're on break? Check out the "Game On" blog for the latest game recaps and scores. blogs.studlife.com



Squirreling around campus



These furry animals have been up to some shenanigans. Find out why these creatures aren't considered man's best friend. Scene, Page 3

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Student Life names Guzik new editor in chief

BY SHWETA MURTHI
MANAGING EDITOR

Sophomore Sam Guzik was named editor in chief of *Student Life* for the 2008-2009 school year. The announcement was made last Friday at the annual banquet by Washington University Student Media, Inc. (WUSMI), the board that oversees *Student Life*.

Guzik, currently the senior News editor, competed against four other candidates to claim the title of editor in chief. His tenure will begin on April 1 of this year.

As editor in chief, Guzik will be responsible for hiring staff, overseeing the production of the newspaper and making all final editorial decisions.

Guzik has been heavily involved in Student Life since the beginning of his freshman year, rising from staff reporter to assignments editor to senior news editor.

"I was definitely pleasantly surprised. There were

a lot of good candidates that were running. It's a very big job, and I'm looking forward to taking it on. I have very big shoes to fill," he said.

One of Guzik's main goals is to create a big push for online coverage and further development of the newspaper's Web site.

"Going forward, we're going to be focusing on a combination of increasing our online presence—following the trend of journalism—and focusing on issues that are serious and important to the University in a way that is interesting to members of the community."

Guzik looked forward to the opportunities in the coming year, including the vice presidential debates at the University and the national presidential election.

"[The elections] are going to be a very big part of campus next year, regardless of whether people are politically involved or not. It's going to be a big effort of our paper to really try and educate voters. Part of

our obligation to the community is not only to tell students about what's going on but also to help people make informed decisions."

WUSMI selected Guzik on Friday based upon his application, the Board's interview and the recommendation of the staff.

While the last sophomore to take on the job of editor in chief was elected five years ago, Erin Fults, the current editor in chief, expressed optimism toward the WUSMI selection of Guzik.

"I am really happy to have Sam take this position. He has always been dependable and a hard worker," said Fults. "I know he will take the paper to great places and I am proud to leave *Student Life* in his hands."

In addition to announcing the editor in chief, the Board also awarded the Gregory M. Freeman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Journalism to senior and executive editor David Brody.

RELAY ♦ FROM PAGE 1

In previous years the fundraising total has increased by between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

According to Raj, Relay faced considerable difficulties this year because last year's frigid temperatures deterred some students from registering.

Even with those challenges, more than 1,700 participants and 159 teams signed up for the 12-hour

fundraiser.

"So many people I know have been affected by cancer, but it's amazing to see the research being done," said freshman Harita Shah, who had personally experienced cancer through her mother and grandmother.

"It's great even if you're just relaying for the cause, but it definitely adds an extra meaning to the event to have a personal connection."

Samborn added that the scale of the event helps to make the experience more meaningful and to infuse the atmosphere with a feeling of empathy.

"The event feels like a support network, and it makes it easier to deal with things because there are so many people who care," she said.

NEED-BLIND ♦ FROM PAGE 1

maybe your parent's occupation, or what school you went to or what neighborhood you live in?" said Witbrodt. "There are schools that say they are need-blind that, even though they don't have your financial information, they have plenty of information."

While it awaits the ability to become need-blind, the University has helped attract prospective students of modest economic backgrounds by offering financial aid in place of loans.

Effective in the next academic year, new and current students with annual family incomes at or below \$60,000 will be awarded grants.

"That money is coming from the increased endowment," said Witbrodt of the new initiative.

Junior Carla Fleisher said that, for a school of the University's caliber, more steps should be taken to become fully need-blind.

"College is so expensive," said Fleisher. "The reality is, being able to pay for it can be difficult, and if other

schools like Stanford and Harvard are able to fix that problem, we need to be able to."

Junior Sara Reynolds says that the University becomes a more homogeneous population when it restricts access to those who cannot afford it.

"I think [need-blind admissions] would definitely help," said Reynolds. "We don't have a diverse population at all, and for such a good school like this, it's surprising."

The researchers will be comparing the effects of two different types of family therapy, both of which include 16 one-hour sessions over the course of nine months, on the 240 participants.

Washington University will be treating 40 of the 240 participants and their families.

SU ELECTIONS

♦ FROM PAGE 1

take really strong people, people who know what they're doing, to put some meaning into the new positions."

Perez added, however, that she would rather her slate be faced with more competition.

"I guess I'm glad to know that I'll be [president]," she said, "[but] it's good to have another person to compare my goals with so the students can make a choice as to who's representing them."

The slate will be filled out by Barbosa, who will run for vice president of programming; Alimi, who will run for vice president of finance; and Tibrwala, who will run for vice president of public relations.

Towery, the independent candidate, also feels confident about his candidacy, although he is disappointed to be excluded from a slate.

"Vice president of administration is something I would really excel at and enjoy," said Towery, an SU senator. "It just happened that I couldn't get a slate together, so I ran alone. It happened that there were six people that wanted to run and left me the odd man out."

Towery says, though, that his independence from a slate allows him to focus on his individual goals.

"When you're running in a slate, you focus on policy platforms and what you as an executive board want to do for the next year," he said. "I get to focus on why I'm the best man for the job."

Nelson, who will be opposing Towery, is looking forward to the race.

"Opposition ultimately holds the people running accountable to the students," he said. "I'm excited that I get to share my goals and have the

students make the choice as to who will do a better job serving them next year."

Perez says that she encouraged those who asked to be on her slate to run as independents or form another slate. Despite the experience that she and her running mates bring to the table, she says that others should not shy away from declaring their candidacies.

"I don't know if people look at the positions and are intimidated by them," she said. "It might be that our people do have a lot of strength for the positions they're running for, [but] people who run for executive board can be in Student Union or not in Student Union."

Perez added, though, that she hopes her slate will sustain the good work that the current executive board has done.

"It's important that we keep the goals of this administration in mind," she said. "If there are things that have been left open, we should accomplish those goals."

Everyone on the slate has internal SU experience and has either served on the Senate or Treasury. Patel says, however, that the slate should not be seen as a continuation of his administration, but as a fresh group with ideas both from within, and outside of, Student Union.

"They've all been part of Student Union, but they've been part of other organizations as well," said Patel. "There will definitely be some similarities between our visions. There are some distinct differences. I don't think any one administration should be a continuation of the next. I don't think that's what they are."

ANOREXIA ♦ FROM PAGE 1

ters come into play.

The goal of the NIH research is to improve the odds for complete recovery and to raise them from their current status of 25 percent. The focus will be on different types of family therapy and the use of Prozac.

"This is the first time that the National Institute of Mental Health has actually funded a collaborative study like this," said Wench. "We're really excited to be part of the six-center study."

The researchers will be comparing the effects of two different types of family therapy, both of which include 16 one-hour sessions over the course of nine months, on the 240 participants.

Washington University will be treating 40 of the 240 participants and their families.

The patients will either re-

ceive Behavioral Family Therapy (BFT) or Systems Family Therapy (SFT). Additionally, half of each group will receive Prozac, while the other half will receive a placebo.

BFT focuses on breaking the cycle when a family becomes used to the disease. SFT focuses on "holding up a mirror" to the family, according to Wench, to see the effects of anorexia on the family as a whole.

The University is looking for participants between ages 12 and 18 in the St. Louis area. According to Professor Wench, doctors don't usually see anorexia start after age 18. Both genders are welcome to participate, although males make up only 10 percent of all anorexia patients.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the project coordinator, Nichole Cecil, at 314-286-0076.

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SCENE

When squirrels attack: true stories

BY SAM BAIER
SCENE REPORTER

There is a growing force on campus that daily threatens the student body. It's not homework, it's not the calories in the chicken tenders and it's not the chance of freezing rain in March. No, this danger comes in a far more cuddly package, with fur and a bushy tail. That's right—squirrels.

Although the Washington University Police Department (WUPD) keeps no official statistics on squirrel-facilitated offenses, thorough research has revealed that in the past, dozens of students have been victimized and hundreds more have been threatened. No studies have been done on the nature of the mental and emotional damage inflicted by these attacks, and at the time of this printing the University has no resources to help traumatized students.

The following four stories are those of ordinary people who have found themselves terrorized at the tiny hands of these furry offenders.

Fall 2006

Sophomore Amanda Coppock and a friend were leaving the physics building on the east end of campus when they heard an ominous rumbling from a trashcan.



A real squirrel trapped between the screen and glass of a student's window in a sophomore dorm on the South 40.

RELAY ♦ FROM PAGE 6

"They were struggling at the first stretch," said Kellerman who joined in. "We did it for cancer."

Flanked by their friends who gave support, the three of them completed the lap.

"It was a lot harder than I thought it would be," said Thomas.

A group of seven from Dardick Four Life tied themselves together to do a lap

When Coppock went to investigate, a squirrel leapt out and jumped on her face.

"I screamed and started crying because I was so scared," said Coppock, shuddering as she relived the memory. "It took me 10 minutes to catch my breath." Her plight failed to attract the sympathy of nearby students. As she tells it, "Everyone within a hundred foot radius started laughing their heads off."

This is far from an isolated incident. "I talked to my RA," said Coppock, "and apparently this is what Wash. U. squirrels do. I heard they even throw acorns out of trees at people."

Since the attack, her disdain for squirrels has grown. "Without the fuzzy tails they're just fat rodents," she said, adding, "overall they're pretty disgusting."

Unfortunately, there's nothing she can do to address the problem, saying, "I'm just a lot more careful around trash cans now."

Summer 2007

Freshman Kristen Schlott was visiting campus with her father. It was a sunny June afternoon, and the two were walking toward the south entrance of Mallinckrodt.

"All of the sudden this



A squirrel glares from its perch on a campus trash can. Periodically, animals just like these leap out unexpectedly at Washington University students.

squirrel leaps from the top of the bushes and lands on my foot," said Schlott, "and I felt its little claws and its little furry body, then it squawked and ran away." What was the worst part? "I was wearing sandals," she said.

Like Coppock, Schlott was terrified during her ordeal.

"I screamed really loudly," she said. "It didn't bite me, but it definitely violated my personal space. And I don't like squirrels to begin with, because they have rabies."

Schlott also gave an insight into student perceptions about the University's squirrel problem.

"This was a really angry squirrel, but I feel like the squirrels at Wash. U. are generally pretty abnormal. They're really fat, too," said Schlott. "You never know when squirrels might attack."

Winter 2008

Sophomore David Liu

was sleeping peacefully one January morning. As the sun was rising on the South 40, he awoke to a loud, persistent scratching sound.

When he rolled over he saw two beady eyes staring back at him, and a squirrel viciously gnawing through the screen on his fourth floor window.

"It must have started three to five weeks ago," said Liu. "I had to file a maintenance request and take a picture so they knew it wasn't just me." The offending squirrel has reappeared on numerous occasions, and the last time it showed up Liu said, "he was really going at it at an amazing pace."

"At first I thought it was trying to get in," he said, "but it just got in between [the screen and the glass] and hung out there for a while. It didn't try to get in any further, it just kept gnawing at the screen."

Not only is the squirrel senselessly vandalizing

University property, but, Liu said, "it's really loud, too."

Another student, sophomore Andrew Jenny, has taken a vigilante approach to stopping squirrel crime.

"I talked to my RA and apparently this is what Wash. U. squirrels do. I heard they even throw acorns out of trees at people."

"Jenny told me he was feeding it," said Liu, "he wants to give it a false sense of security...he plans to capture it, or something."

Spring 2008

Freshman Kristen Scheitler-Ring was walking to a poetry class last Tuesday morning.

"It was snowing a lot," she said, "and I was really

distracted because I was listening to my music."

She caught a flash of movement out of the corner of her eye. "It was in my periphery, and I thought it was a leaf," she said, "but then this little rodent of a squirrel jumps out and latches onto my foot."

Although Scheitler-Ring suffered no physical harm, her boots were not so lucky. "There are little bite marks on my Uggs," she said, "I had to wear my Vans today."

The trauma caused by this incident may last for a while.

"It was the most embarrassing moment of my life," said Scheitler-Ring.

Washington University's squirrel problem doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon, but there are simple steps everyone should take to stay safe.

Don't stray from the walking paths, never walk alone and never, under any circumstances, carry acorns anywhere on your person.

MEN'S B-BALL ♦ FROM PAGE 6

half of the game, opening with an 11-2 run. With 7:33 remaining in the game, the Bears were able to tie everything up at 56 apiece on a three from sophomore Aaron Thompson. Wash. U. could not however turn this tie into a lead. Chicago was able to pull away once and for all in the final minute of play on free throws.

Ruths led the team with a game-high of 24 points; Thompson had 18 on 3-of-4 three-point shooting. Nading added 12. Soph-

omore point guard Ross Kelley led the team in rebounds, with eight.

Nading and sophomore Cameron Smith both fouled out in the final two minutes guarding Chicago star Nate Hainje who had 19 points and 11 rebounds as he was honored on Senior Day. Adam Machones also led the Maroons with 18 points on 4-of-4 three-point shooting while point guard Jake Pancratz added 15 points and nine assists while Matt Corning scored 11.

Chicago, picked to finish toward the bottom of the conference in the preseason poll, won a surprise UAA title with their win on Saturday. With this win, they also received the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA post-season tournament.

The Bears will have to wait until this afternoon to learn if they received an at-large berth. As the team was ranked second in the last regional rankings, the odds are in their favor to receive a bid.

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

SU executive candidates ought not run unopposed

National elections aren't the only thing in the air right now. Students who would like to run for an executive position in Student Union need to turn in election packets with signatures by Thursday.

Currently, there is only one slate of candidates signed up to run, although the vice president (VP) of administration position will be contested.

The current Student Union executive board and the candidates are not expecting to be challenged by anyone else. The lack of challengers in most of these races means that we will have an election that will not present a choice to the student body, which runs contrary to the mission of our student government.

A competition for positions will lead to a competition of ideas, ultimately leading to better administration and use of the

students funds.

Student Union is an organization that has an incredible responsibility on our campus to advocate for students. Among other things, Student Union is responsible for relaying and advocating student views to the administration and allocating the organization's \$2.1 million budget to student groups.

This year, Student Union had many high-profile roles, including negotiating the delay for implementing the new technology fee and helping to fund the College Republicans' request to bring Alberto Gonzales to campus.

The decisions this organization makes have significant impacts on the lives of students.

Because Student Union has so much power over the lives of Wash. U. students, it is distressing to see executive candidates for the student government running unchallenged. The lack

of opposition gives students no choice in determining who will make these important decisions. We cannot fault the slate members or Student Union for running unopposed; they have made a decision to volunteer to step up and offer to serve our school and for this we commend them.

But, we need to challenge ourselves to get involved as well. There are so many talented students on this campus who have unique experiences and viewpoints to contribute to our student government.

So challenge yourselves and run. Let's work to ensure that we, as students, can be represented in the best way possible by offering ourselves as many different options for our representatives.

Ideas gain their significance and meaning by contrasting with other ideas. It is within a marketplace of contrasting ideas that we

will find the best ones for the student body and for Washington University.

The election deadline is coming up. Election packets (which you can find at http://su.wustl.edu/ElectionPacket_Spring2008.pdf) are due March 6. In order to turn in a packet you need to garner 150 signatures supporting your candidacy. The upcoming deadline means that running for office will be challenging if you start today, but this is a meaningful chance to dedicate yourself to the service of the school and to impact the student body.

Again, a decision to run is not a critique of the current Student Union, but a tribute to our student government and to our University as a whole. If you are looking for a chance to make a difference, this is your chance.

Step up. You have our signature.

Our daily Forum editors:

Monday: Christian Sherden Wednesday: Jillian Strominger Friday: Altin Sila
ctsherde@artsci.wustl.edu jlstromi@artsci.wustl.edu asila@wustl.edu

To ensure that we have time to fully evaluate your submissions, guest columns should be e-mailed to the next issue's editor or forwarded to forum@studlife.com by no later than 5 p.m. two days before publication. Late pieces will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

The proliferation of popular pregnancy

In the past, I have refrained from writing this article because I believed it would be old news. Then, two weeks ago, I saw a preview for Tina Fey's new movie "Baby Mama," which means the topic of this article is topical again. It was one more in a series of movies, pop culture references and celebrity examples over the past year that has been subliminally loaded with the notion that getting pregnant is the coolest thing anyone can do right now.



Christian Sherden

so A-list, Gwen Stefani and recently Angelina Jolie have all been announced as "preggers." Moreover, members of the Spears family got pregnant more often than they would have if they regularly visited a sperm bank (though our interest in them is not so much in their ability to set trends, but in their traveling-freakshow-like qualities). The tabloids are all filled with speculations of who is currently pregnant as well as many pictures of confirmed targets parading their corpulent bellies around like they would a pair of new custom-designed heels.

Pregnancy has become the ultimate accessory, and apparently it goes with every outfit.

To me, something feels wrong about this approach to the creation of new life. I think the trend has much to do with female empowerment, as pregnancy is the ultimate

"Pregnancy has become the ultimate accessory, and apparently it goes with every outfit."

reverse penis envy in some ways. But this idea has been displayed in such a trashy and unrealistic manner. Who is supposed to raise all of these celebrity and fictional babies? Is Jessica Alba going to quit traveling all over the world for her movie career once her possible twins pop out? More likely her kids will be raised by a series of nannies and private schools while she continues to live the fast life (on a side note, she better keep that figure). Is it just coincidence that a movie about pregnancy ends once the lead female character in question gives birth? No! Hollywood wants to show the fun and edgy part of pregnancy without the messy afterbirth. They conveniently forgot to show Seth Rogen miserably sleepless in a loud and smelly house, changing diapers and getting thrown up on for two years after the crazy, hip rollercoaster that was "Knocked Up"—this is a sequel that will never sell because it is not very cool.

Many of the characters in these movies have to face the option of abortion early on or opt to have the baby instead (there would not be much of a movie if they had done otherwise). While I do not think that abortion is some sort of panacea (I understand that the process is rather horrible for everyone involved), I find the constant pro-life-leaning guilt trip from all of these sources to be a strange fad. It is true that movies from the 1980s about the incredible stresses of abortion have made the message somewhat old hat, but in these days, when the world is facing overpopulation, why is it so cool to have a child whom you did not really want in the first place?

Let's take a look at our pregnant A-list celebrities. Typing in "celebrity pregnancy" into a Google search will lead you to a Web site called celebritypregnancy.com, where you can find a catalog of all of your favorite celebrities who currently have buns in their respective ovens.

In the past year, Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Alba, Christina Aguilera, Tori Spelling (not

I don't mean to condemn the institution of child bearing or to create a society of shame similar to "The Scarlet Letter," but while we should have respect for ladies making babies, we should not trivialize, by way of making a fashion statement, the decision of having a baby.

Christian is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum editor. He can be reached via e-mail at forum@studlife.com.

DMITRI JACKSON | EDITORIAL CARTOON

STRENGTHENING THE DOLLAR



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Refusal to Obama an embarrassing policy

Dear Editor:

If, as reported in *Student Life*, Washington University refused to allow a student organization to host presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama, as a campus speaker in January because "speeches by political candidates would disrupt the academic environment of the school," the University administration has violated free speech and its avowed commitment to academic freedom.

To be sure, there is no absolute right to free speech, but the action by the administration severely compromises the University's claim as a place where a free exchange of ideas and opinions is encouraged and matters.

It did not seem that the recent appearance of former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales "would disrupt the academic environment" on campus. Nor did Washington University's sponsorship of debates during the presidential campaigns of 1992, 2000, 2004 and during the forthcoming electoral contest in 2008 "disrupt the academic environment," even if there was and will be a considerable amount of disruption of campus life before, during and after those events.

Fifty years ago, I was involved in a free speech movement at Ohio State University, a campaign which successfully ended the political gag rule that had been in place there for many

decades. It would be a shame and an embarrassment for Washington University to embrace such an outdated exclusionary policy that has long since been abandoned at most institutions of higher learning.

-Henry W. Berger
Professor Emeritus of History
Washington University

Bad weather school days risky for students

Dear Editor:

Why does Washington University insist on staying open during bad weather,

even while other institutions are quick to close? As I write this, the roads are frozen and many are closed. There are accidents throughout the city and traffic delays are being measured in hours. The talking heads on the news this morning repeat every 10 minutes that the viewers should stay home and that the risk of driving is too high. I am a graduate student who lives several miles from campus, and even such a short commute is looking unnecessarily dangerous this morning. Nearly every school in the area is closed. However, Wash. U. is not. Many Wash. U. students and employees do not live near campus, and have to commute—some quite a long distance.

As a student, I have a choice about attending classes. I can simply choose not to. This morning, I chose not to. However, Wash. U. employees do not have this luxury. Wash. U. policy requires such employees to come to work when the University is open: "If, due to inclement weather, employees feel they cannot safely drive to work, or must leave prior to the regularly scheduled time, the supervisor may permit the employee to use vacation time." Notice that: a) The supervisor may choose not to permit the employee to use vacation time, and b) the employee must pay a price to avoid an unnecessary risk.

By insisting on staying open in such dangerous

weather and requiring that employees come to work (or take a vacation day, if their supervisor approves), Wash. U. is putting its students and employees at risk. Moreover, this is not an isolated incident: Several times this winter, and over the past winters, Wash. U. has made the very same decision when other schools haven't hesitated to close. This pattern of behavior is grossly irresponsible. The administration is sending a clear message that it does not care about the safety and well-being of its students and employees by requiring them to attempt travel in dangerous conditions, and I find this attitude disgusting.

-Don Goodman-Wilson

CADENZA

Old movies: Cold War classics

BY BRIAN STITT
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

'Red Dawn'

The ultimate in Reagan-era calls-to-arms, "Red Dawn," continues to be one of the strongest ties our current culture has to our nation's Cold War fears.

Featuring 80s all-stars Patrick Swayze, Charlie Sheen, Jennifer Grey and C. Thomas Howell, "Red Dawn" plays like a two-hour adaptation of "Soldier of Fortune."

Soviet and Cuban troops invade a small Colorado town (and presumably other parts of the U.S. as well) only to face resistance from a small group of forest-dwelling teenagers who call themselves the Wolverines. The opening sequence, in which parachuting Soviet troops attack a high school, is iconic, even if the rest of the movie is more infamous than notable.

Not only was it long considered by the Guinness Book of World Records to be the most violent movie ever made, but it was also the first film ever released with a PG-13 rating. That shouldn't prevent it from going down in history as one

of the great beacons of conservatism in the normally liberal Hollywood. It's half fearmongering, half NRA-ad and 100% serious, which is why it gives so much pleasure year after year, viewing after viewing.

Writer/director and St. Louis native John Milius also wrote "Apocalypse Now" and was the Coen Brothers' inspiration for Walter when they were making "The Big Lebowski;" but "Red Dawn" may go down as his most lasting contribution to the arts. It was this movie that inspired the name for the U.S. military operation that captured Saddam Hussein. That's right; it was "Operation Red Dawn" that dug the former Iraqi leader out of his hole. And the responsible units' names? Wolverine 1 and Wolverine 2.

Whether you watch it to laugh at the way we weren't or to cry for the heads of those dirty commie dogs, it stands the test of time and will remain one of this country's favorite World War III movies.



'Gymkata'

If a movie is made available on DVD only after an online contest, you know it's got to be good.

Imagine a movie starring Olympic gymnast Kurt Thomas based on the dubious notion that gymnastics can be cool. Throw him into a made-up, vaguely Soviet country where the U.S. wants to install a satellite-monitoring base, a country which no one is allowed to enter unless they can survive a deadly obstacle course called "the game." Then take into account that they have the budget of a grade-school theater production and that Thomas is one of the better actors in the cast.

This will not even begin to prepare you for "Gymkata." In order to defeat "the game," which involves mostly running and rope climbing (deadly rope climbing!), Thomas is trained by the SIA (Special Intelligence

Agency) to create a martial art that blends his gymnastics skills with karate to form gymkata, a martial art far too dependent on pommel-horse-shaped objects laying around Eastern European towns.

"Gymkata" has developed a small cult following for its unintentional comedy and poor attempts at political intrigue, but it deserves a much larger one. This film is epically ill-conceived and its utterly ridiculous premise pays off in the form of big laughs for anyone watching the resulting mess. Really, the only redeeming characteristics of "Gymkata" are its preservation of skewed views on Cold War policies and the fact that it gave Thomas the chance to get some revenge after being shut out of the 1980 Olympic Games. Who's laughing now, USSR? That's right; anyone who's watching "Gymkata."



'Enemy Mine'

One of the great, forgotten sci-fi epics of the 80s, "Enemy Mine," features a more humanistic view of Cold War politics. Well, half-humanistic at least.

Dennis Quaid plays an interstellar fighter pilot in a 21st century war between humans and an alien race called Dracs. Louis Gossett Jr. plays a Drac pilot who crash-lands on the same forbidding planet as Dennis Quaid. Forced to rely on each other to survive, both learn to accept each other personally and reject the years of propaganda they have been fed about the other's race.

This movie approaches the Cold War as one between cultures and offers a non-military response to the problem. By sharing language and customs, the human and Drac learn to live together. In a strange piece of karmic repayment, the "can't we all just get along" message actually helped.

"Enemy Mine" was among the first American films to see a legal wide-release in the former Soviet Union. As a result, it became very popular and therefore served as a catalyst in the necessary cultural change suggested by the film.



n. a technically brilliant, sometimes improvised solo passage toward the close of a concerto, an exceptionally brilliant part of an artistic work

arts & entertainment

ALBUM REVIEW

Cheyenne: 'The Whale'

BY STEVE HARDY
CADENZA REPORTER

Cheyenne's newest record opens with the titular track "The Whale," in which an ominous, dissonant cello competes with a piano drone and clapping and tambourine percussion. It sets a creepy mood for sure, but an intriguing one nonetheless. Bouncing piano and electric guitar melodies go on to compete for attention, while vocalist Beau Jennings chants "Keep your eyes open, keep your eyes open!" Unfortunately, subsequent songs spiral into more and more banal indie pop.

In fact, the album is best suited for background music. Tracks like "Broken English" and "Big Weather" are fairly unremarkable. They are just bouncy enough to hold your attention, while not exciting enough to command it. With the exception of "Painting Horses," it's easy to forget that you're listening to the second half of this short CD. You don't forget because you get lost in the music, but because the songs run together unremarkably.

"Painting Horses" manages to distinguish itself because the ensemble plays with some urgency. Additionally, Jennings and guitarist Josh Harper show off their skills on their axes, which are surprisingly good considering that the guitars are so ignored elsewhere on "The Whale" so that the lyr-

ics can take prominence and drive Cheyenne's songs.

On several tracks, the Brooklyn-by-Nowhere, Oklahoma band dips into uninteresting pseudo-country ballads. "Cimarron River" is the most unfortunate example. On it, frontman Jennings's vocals lag lazily behind the painfully down-tempo twanging guitar and harmonica.

"The Curtain" follows in a similar vein, but is even more pared down. For too long, Cheyenne tries to get by on just thin vocals, with guitar chords and drums merely playing time.

However, not everything on "The Whale" is lamentable. The titular track really is strong, and the album is perfect for chilling out while doing homework or reading. Hopefully on their next album, Cheyenne will beef up their melodies and become center stage performers.

Anyone who is going to be in St. Louis over spring break can catch Cheyenne at Off Broadway on March 9 at 8 p.m.

Cheyenne 'The Whale'

Rating: ★★★☆☆
For fans of: Wilco, Ryan Adams
Tracks to Download: "The Whale," "Painting Horses"

CONCERT REVIEW

'Pierce the Veil' in Sauget, IL

BY DAVID KAMINSKY
MUSIC EDITOR

It's hard having a five-band show on a Wednesday night. Even putting noise-permit constraints aside, when the primary fan bases of all five acts hover around the age of 16, the show ends up having to start early so that the kiddos can still get a good night's sleep for school the next day.

Thus, Cry of the Afflicted, the first of four bands opening for Emery, went on at 6:00 p.m., only playing to about 75 people, all of whom, including myself, seemed very much unimpressed.

At about 6:45 p.m., still incredibly early for a band to be going on, Pierce the Veil took the stage to a decidedly uninterested crowd.

They opened with the first track from their debut as Pierce the Veil (the band has called themselves Before Today and prior to that the Early Times), "Chemical Kids and Mechanical Brides," which began to get the crowd going.

With each song the crowd progressively became more receptive to Pierce the Veil, although it appeared most had never listened to them prior to the show. About halfway through their set of songs from their first album, "A Flair for the Dramatic," Pierce the Veil busted out a completely un-ironic cover of Michael Jackson's "Beat It."

With "Beat It" everything changed. The crowd of 16-year-old scenesters seemingly threw away all prior inhibitions, singing and dancing along with their twist on a familiar track. A small pit broke out and the crowd finally let loose, allowing themselves to enjoy

the incredible performance.

The standout song of the night was "I'd Rather Die Than Be Famous," which highlighted Pierce the Veil's onstage energy. Lead vocalist Vic Fuentes and backup vocalist Jaime Preciado were spot on the entire night. Lead guitarist Tony Perry added to their intensity by singing along to every word of every song, despite the fact that he was not miked. Synchronized body/guitar movements between Fuentes, Perry and Preciado also added an extra bit of (albeit corny) energy to the show. Finally, Mike Fuentes's (yes, they're brothers) pounding ferocity on drums guided the band throughout the entire night.

After seeing Pierce the Veil for the first time, I am absolutely convinced they are only shooting further and further into stardom. They have now toured with Emery, Scary Kids Scaring Kids, Chiodos and other screamo-scene superstars, which has surely helped gain them a fanbase. It's nothing compared to what Warped Tour is about to do for them. If they put on the kind of performance they did at Pop's in every major city in America, there's no telling how far they'll go.

Pierce the Veil

Location: Pop's in Sauget, IL
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Sound: ★★★★★
Energy: ★★★★★
Crowd Response: ★★★★★

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

U CHICAGO 76 • WU 53

Women's hoops loses UAA but advances to Nationals



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

Sophomore Zoë Unruh looks for a pass during the Feb. 24 game against NYU. For the first time in over a decade, the Bears failed to capture the UAA No. 1 spot.

BY JOHANN QUA HIANSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Chicago pulled off an upset in front of a packed house as Washington University fell 76-53 at the Rattner Center in Chicago on Saturday.

The Bears were picked to defend their UAA title at the beginning of the season before All-American junior Jaimie McFarlin suffered a season-ending injury. Meanwhile, the Maroons were ranked in the bottom half of the conference. With the loss, the Bears share second place with Rochester in the UAA. The Lady Bears had held at least part of the UAA title for

the past 10 years.

Wash. U. was also riding high from the two wins this previous weekend over Brandeis University and New York University where four Bears scored in the double-digits. The Bears were also solid from long range last weekend as they had nine threes in each game.

But Saturday was not their day as the Bears suffered a scoring drought and only shot 24 percent from the three-point line. Sophomore Zoë Unruh was the only player with a double-digit contribution.

"We couldn't really get into the flow of the game," said freshman Alex Hoover.

Unruh led the squad with 14

points followed by sophomore Janice Evans with eight points and 10 boards. Junior Jill Brandt had seven while Hoover had six.

"We made them scratch and claw for things," said University of Chicago Head Coach Aaron Roussell on the D-3 Hoops' Online Radio Broadcast.

Wash. U.'s only lead of the night was by two points with 17:28 left in the first period. Chicago stole the show with 46 percent field goal shooting and several turnovers, which the Maroons converted into a lead. The Maroons had 17 points off of turnovers and had 18 second-chance points compared to the Bears' five points off turnovers and 13 second-chance points.

"Chicago couldn't miss," said Evans.

Chicago stormed through the defense with an 11 point run leaving the Bears scoreless for a period of 4:53 until junior Shanna-Lei Dacanay hit an 18-foot jumper with 9:44 left on the clock in the first.

The Bears showed some signs of life as junior Halsey Ward and Unruh had back-to-back three-pointers which launched a 10-0 run. The run trimmed the lead to 16. But Chicago quickly snuffed out the spark of the Wash. U. offensive machine with six of the 10 following points.

The 21 point lead built by Chicago in the first period was too much for the Bears to overcome though they held their own in the second, scoring 37 points compared to Chicago's 39. "We definitely didn't go down without a fight," said Hoover.

The Bears will advance to the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament as announced on Sunday night by the NCAA Selection Committee. The 63 team bracket will be announced Monday morning at 8 a.m. on www.ncaasports.com.

The basketball team has drawn many comparisons to the volleyball team which lost the UAA title game but won the national championship in 2007.

"We're all very excited," said Ward. "Once you're in, that's all that matters. We have all the potential in the world to do that."

Relay participants engage in hijinks for spirit bucks

BY JOHANN QUA HIANSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

Bushyhead Track has seen a lot of interesting events before.

It's been the site of the 1904 Olympics and the 2004 Olympic Global Torch Relay.

It's been the site of dozens of races and many Relay for Life events.

The 2008 Relay for Life was no different, with hundreds of people walking, jogging and sprinting around the 400-meter track. Others danced around the track or passed a soccer ball as they moved.

Some students were very creative in their approaches to earn spirit bucks. Spirit bucks were given to teams for doing various events. The team with the most at the end of the night won bowling and pizza with Chancellor Wrighton.

At least two groups of students leapfrogged around the roughly quarter of a mile track, a few pushed people in a shopping cart, while large groups of people skipped together with their legs tied to each other and another student hopped with his feet tied together.

"He hopped all the way around the track with his legs tied up just for two spirit bucks," said sophomore

Cissy Si of Relay for Life.

Freshman John Menze's legs were tightly bound and he proceeded to hop all the way around the track with few breaks in between.

"It was crazy fun," said Menze. "I've never hopped a quarter-mile."

A group of six from the Beau Two Ballers team leapfrogged around the track on the second lap led by freshmen Lujia Zhang and Jeffrey Radlauer.

"It's just a fun, spontaneous thing to do," said Zhang.

See RELAY, page 3



SCOTT BRESSLER | STUDENT LIFE

Freshman Victor Thomas leaps over Nick Jenkins and Sarah Kellerman at Relay for Life this weekend. The three successfully leapfrogged a lap of the quarter-mile track in order to secure spirit bucks.

BASEBALL

COE 5 • WU 3 WU 12 • COE 4

Baseball splits doubleheader

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University baseball opened its season with a doubleheader against Coe College on Sunday. The Bears lost the opener to the Kohawks 5-3 but rebounded in the second game with a 12-4 come-from-behind win.

While the season was supposed to start on Tuesday against Fontbonne University, the school had to postpone the doubleheader as well as Thursday's contest against Webster University and Saturday's doubleheader against the Kohawks. While the Fontbonne and Webster games have been postponed, Saturday's doubleheader has been canceled.

With Wash. U. leading 3-2 after four innings in game one, Coe plated two unearned runs on three hits and two errors. Right fielder Nick Robertson reached on an error by second baseman Robert Hamilton, advanced to second on a passed ball and scored on a Pat Richmond single for what held as the game-winning run.

Co-captain and junior Brian Williams took the loss, despite tossing all seven innings of the contest and striking out eight. Williams finished eighth in Division III base-

ball with 10 wins last season. The Bears and Kohawks traded blows for the first four innings of the second contest before Wash. U. put the game out of reach. After Wash. U. starter Jeremy Rogoff gave up a leadoff single and then walked the next two hitters, he struck out Richmond and DH Nick McKenzie before inducing a ground ball to second by third baseman Ryan Schisler to end the first.

The Bears struck first in the second after freshman first baseman Matt Skinner led off with a single, advanced to third on a Miguel Davis double, and scored on a Dave Working single. Davis and Working also scored in the inning with RBI's by outfielders Zander Lehman and Gregg Kennedy.

The Kohawks took a 4-3 lead off of Rogoff in the fifth, knocking him out for reliever Jerry Price. Price pitched 2.1 innings of shut-out ball to give the Bears their first win of the season.

"Jeremy did a great job keeping us in the game until we came back," stated Williams.

Wash. U. scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth off of Kohawk starter Lee Boyce and relievers Terren Bladel and Mike Glayor and added four in the sixth off of Glayor and Ran Rayhill. With the Bears down

4-3 in the fourth with runners on second and third, co-captain and left fielder Working successfully executed a suicide squeeze bunt, knocking in Jake Labinski. Working reached on an error by the pitcher, so with only one out in the inning, shortstop Remy Midkiff bunted in Davis from third on another suicide squeeze.

"I kind of expected [the suicide bunt]. That's how to get a rally started and bring back the energy. Our coach plays like that. He will bunt anyone," said Skinner.

"It's certainly the right call," added Williams on the squeeze plays. "We had our eight and nine guys up, and their third baseman was having trouble all day."

While both games featured some sloppy play, Skinner believes that the team showed that it is ready to contend this season.

"Saturday was our first day on a real baseball field. It's completely different being on a field than in the gym. I think that if we play like we did in the second game, we'll be pretty set for the season," said Skinner.

The Bears next play away on Tuesday against Greenville College at 1 p.m. before a Thursday doubleheader at Westminster College that begins at noon.



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE
Junior Zander Lehmann bats the ball to bring in a run during the second game against Coe College on March 2. After a loss in the first game, the Bears made a great comeback to win 12-4.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

U CHICAGO 74 • WU 66

Men's basketball falls to Chicago

BY TRISHA WOLF
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University's men's basketball (19-6, 10-4 UAA) team failed to defend its UAA title, falling to the University of Chicago (18-7, 11-3 UAA) 74-66 in the final regular season game which was also conference championship match.

"After losing, you always feel like you can play better," said senior captain Troy Ruths. "In the

end it was a good game.

Early on, the Bears looked poised to defend their title. They opened the game by going on a 13-2 run, highlighted by six points from Ruths. The Red and Green maintained a comfortable lead for the remainder of the first half.

At the nine minutes to go mark, Chicago, one of the best three-point shooting teams in Division III, finally heated up behind the arc. They made six

three-pointers in the next seven minutes to tie the game up before making a seventh with 47 seconds remaining in the half to take their first lead of the game into the locker room.

"Lapses in defense became apparent," said junior Tyler Nadig. "They went on runs where they got a ton of open looks."

The Maroons went on to control the tempo of the second

See MEN'S B-BALL, page 3

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

	2	3	4					
8		4	1					
1		2		8	5			
		8	9	7	3			
	6	4	7	1				
5	2		7			3		
		3	5				1	
	6	4	8					

Level: **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Friday's puzzle

1	2	4	7	9	3	6	8	5
3	7	9	8	6	5	2	1	4
8	6	5	4	1	2	9	3	7
5	4	2	3	7	1	8	9	6
6	1	8	9	5	4	3	7	2
9	3	7	2	8	6	4	5	1
2	9	1	6	3	7	5	4	8
7	8	6	5	4	9	1	2	3
4	5	3	1	2	8	7	6	9

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Watered
- 6 Snow-day rides
- 11 Pedal pumper
- 14 Vibrant
- 15 Long-necked wader
- 16 Ocean off NC
- 17 Purple shade
- 18 Barest hint
- 19 Na Na
- 20 Compared with
- 22 Mouthed-off
- 24 Shamus
- 25 Concentrate
- 27 Seven times a week
- 28 Courts
- 30 City near Cleveland
- 32 Scottish loch
- 33 Sty comments
- 35 Last part of a sonnet
- 37 Nods off
- 39 Lifts and hurl
- 43 Belt positions
- 47 Prepared to pray
- 48 High point
- 51 Marcus Aurelius, e.g.
- 53 Environ
- 54 Talisman
- 56 Identify oneself to a computer
- 58 Chasing game
- 59 Execrable
- 61 Annual golf event
- 63 Bus. ltr. abbr.
- 64 Drink to
- 66 Automaton
- 68 Hit the slopes
- 69 Sergeant Bilko
- 70 Festive
- 71 Retirement letters
- 72 Graded
- 73 Accumulate

DOWN

- 1 Actor Holbrook
- 2 Dressing ingredient
- 3 Paint ingredient
- 4 Tanguay and Gabor
- 5 Low-boost coffee?
- 6 Comic bits
- 7 Spare time
- 8 European eagle
- 9 Hounds
- 10 Slammin' Sammy
- 11 Movie dog
- 12 Kennedy and Merman
- 13 Knight & the Pips
- 21 Intl. broadcasters
- 23 Guitarist Carlos
- 24 Tango teams
- 26 Distress signal
- 29 Cooking sticks
- 31 To the ___ degree
- 34 Health resort
- 36 Mouse-spotter's cry
- 38 Fam. member
- 40 Spine piece
- 41 Parker and Powell
- 42 Males-only
- 44 Letters on Cardinal caps

Down

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Solutions

S	S	A	R	A	T	E	D	A	M	A	S
S	K	I	T	O	A	S	T	R	B	R	Y
C	U	R	S	E	D	T	H	E	O	P	E
G	H	A	R	M	L	O	G	O	N	T	A
A	C	M	E	S	T	O	I	C	A	R	E
S	L	E	P	I	S	K	N	E	L	T	
Q	O	O	S	A	K	R	O	N	N	E	S
T	E	C	F	O	C	U	S	A	S	E	
V	I	L	A	C	T	I	N	G	E	S	
A	L	I	V	E	H	E	R	O	N	A	T
H	O	S	E	D	S	L	I	E	D	S	L

- 55 Poetic measure
- 57 Bellini opera
- 60 Mrs. Copperfield
- 62 "Birches," e.g.
- 65 Picnic pest
- 67 Herndon and Cobb

Relay for Life 2008

