

STUDENT LIFE

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Lawsuit raises questions about study abroad costs

BY PERRY STEIN
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the varying costs of study abroad programs, Washington University students studying abroad pay full home tuition to the University rather than to the program at which they are studying.

"By charging all students Washington University tuition rates we provide greater clarity for parents and students, eliminate concerns related to foreign exchange rates, minimize financial incentives in the choice of study abroad programs and emphasize academic priorities," said Barbara Feiner, vice chancellor for finance.

This payment policy, employed by many Universities, has come under scrutiny after a Wheaton College student and her father filed a lawsuit in Massachusetts state court claiming that Wheaton's policy of keeping the money difference between the cost of



COURTESY OF APRIL MONROE

April Monroe arrived in the western province of Kenya where she had a homestay. She and the other students were greeted at a local church by school children, community members and their homestay families.

See STUDY ABROAD, page 2

LEED certification steers Danforth Center design

BY ANN JOHNSON
STAFF REPORTER

The plans of the Danforth University Center, set to open at the beginning of next semester, have been shaped by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process, as the design looks to meet the rigorous standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"We expect the building will be, at a minimum, 20 percent more energy efficient than is required by building code standards required by LEED," said Matt Malten, assistant vice chancellor of environmental sustainability.

According to Green Action President Lee Cordova, LEED certification is a system developed by the Green Building Council (GBC) to award points for sustainable buildings according to certifiable standards.

Buildings get points for efficient heating and cooling, water, drainage outside

the building and the use of native plants.

To help save energy, the lights of the University Center will be connected to a sensor which detects daylight. Based on how much daylight it detects, the lights inside the building will be dimmed.

The building is also expected to use 30 percent less water than is required by the LEED code. This will be achieved by using water fixtures that receive LEED credit—points based on the environmental effect of the object. In addition, the University Center will have an underground cistern filled with rainwater and non-potable groundwater, and will use that to irrigate the landscaping. If there is left-over water, it could be used to water the Olin Business School's lawn.

The center will also have several resources catering to bike riders.

See DANFORTH CENTER, page 2

Impact of new financial aid program difficult to determine

BY MELANIE SPERGEL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The long-term ramifications of a new Washington University financial aid policy that will eliminate student loans for students from families earning less than \$60,000 annually are still unknown.

"We estimate that this will affect about 600 students in the coming school year, approximately 10 percent of our undergraduates," said Vice Chancellor for Finance Barbara Feiner.

Despite the administration's increased commitment to financial aid, the impact of the new policy on the entire University community is difficult to determine at this point.

"We cannot predict the future, so I cannot conjecture on exactly what effect [the new financial aid policy] will have. We believe this is a good thing and that it will provide relief to those families that qualify for this type of finan-

See FINANCIAL AID, page 2

Teacher-shortage bill may compromise quality, professor says

BY JEREMY ROGOFF
STAFF REPORTER

A bill in the Missouri General Assembly that would allow aspiring teachers to more easily attain teaching credentials has sparked questions about whether such a measure would worsen the quality of education in the state.

"Just because you're certified doesn't mean you're qualified," said William F. Tate, the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences. "With this model, there's no accountability in place to say whether or not a person is suitable to teach."

The bill, which was recently approved by a 25-5 vote in the state senate and awaits the house's consideration, aims to address a teacher shortage in St. Louis public schools. Republican State Senator and the bill's sponsor Luann Ridgeway of Smallville estimates the city is in need of approximately 400 teachers. While Tate thinks the measure's purpose is well intentioned, he said that any stop-gap effort to lure instructors to the city will risk sending low quality teachers to some of the most challenging schools.

See TEACHER-SHORTAGE, page 3

TUESDAY NIGHT PSYCHOANALYSIS



LUCY MOORE | STUDENT LIFE

On Thursday, March 20, Rosalind Petchesky, Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at Hunter College and the Graduate Center at CUNY, spoke to students enrolled in Introduction to Women and Gender Studies. In her talk, sponsored by Women and Gender Studies, the Center for Programs and the International and Area Studies Program, Petchesky covered many issues regarding sexual rights crossing international borders, especially concerning South Asians.

Business school looks to add sports management classes

BY JOHN SCOTT
STAFF REPORTER

Several students at Washington University will have the opportunity to learn about the business side of sports, courtesy of a new class in sports management offered at the Olin Business School.

Todd Milbourn, professor of finance, and Seth Abraham, former CEO of Time Warner Sports, will teach the course.

"Most people think of sports as a pastime, but in truth, today sports at all levels is a global business," said Abraham.

The class will also feature

four speakers with different areas of expertise in sports.

According to Mahendra Gupta, dean of the business school, sports is a large industry that is growing considerably, so having knowledge of the subject is beneficial to students.

"It's a very complex busi-

ness. If you think nationally, sports and entertainment [is] a massive industry," said Gupta.

According to Gupta, there are many real-world opportunities for students who have studied sports management

See OLIN SPORTS page 3

'The Hulk' wasn't that bad...



Movie buff Brian Stitt defends "The Hulk" and all its green glory. **Cadenza, Page 7.**

Post-season WU sports cleans up



Check out how softball and swimming performed over spring break and get the latest on other post-season action. **Sports, Page 6.**

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Pulse



Compiled by Sam Guzik

Friday, March 21

Improv Comedy Show

Suspicious of Whistlers will be performing free improvisational comedy this Friday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in the Gargoyle. There is no charge for the event, which is sponsored by the fast-food chain Fuddrucker's.

Deconstructing Margaret Cho

Hosted by Korean Student Association and Pride Alliance, come watch an episode of comic Margaret Cho's show aired in 1994, "All American Girl." Following the episode there will be a discussion of social issues affecting LGBT and Korean-American communities today. Refreshments will be provided. At the event there will be a chance to win tickets to meet Cho after her upcoming appearance on campus.

Saturday, March 22

Holi Celebration

Atma, Wash. U.'s Hindu Student Association, will hold a dinner in honor of Holi, a popular, Hindu spring festival, observed in all of India and Nepal. The dinner will feature catered Indian food and will take place at Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the Lopata Multipurpose room. The cost of the event is \$3 that will be donated to charity.

Korean Film Festival

All weekend, the Korea Foundation, the Korean Film Council in L.A., the Film and Media Studies Program, and the East Asian Studies Program will sponsor a festival of films relating to Korea. The films all begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in Brown 100. On Saturday night, the film is "Crossing the Line," the story of a U.S. soldier sent to guard the peace in South Korea who deserted his unit and walked across the most heavily fortified area on earth to defect to America's Cold War enemy, the communist state of North Korea.

Sunday, March 23

Easter

Join the Catholic Student Center for Easter mass in Graham Chapel. There will be two masses held on Sunday morning, the first at 9 a.m. and the second at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served following the service.

STUDY ABROAD ❖ FROM PAGE 1

the study abroad program and the full home tuition was unfair and deceiving.

However, Feiner said the University does not keep the extra money, but rather uses it to offset the costs of programs that cost more than University tuition as well as for additional financial aid for students studying abroad.

"The use of a flat tuition rate for all undergraduates balances the variability of higher and lower expenses for all the choices we offer both inside and outside the classroom and on and off the Danforth Campus," said Feiner.

Director of Overseas and Undergraduate Programs Priscilla Stone said that students do not have the option to pay overseas programs directly unless they take a leave of absence.

"If a student chooses to go on a leave of absence, she will pay the program cost directly. In this case, she would not receive Washington University credit, but would have a transcript from the school or provider abroad for the semester of work. Some students, who are ahead in credits from advanced placement classes or summer school

may choose this route. They are not able to use any Washington University financial aid or scholarships," said Stone.

Senior April Monroe traveled to Kenya and studied at the University of Nairobi through a University program during the spring 2007 semester. Monroe paid the standard tuition price to the University but said she did not know the actual cost of the program.

"When you go into Kenya the cost is much less, so I'm guessing the cost of the program isn't the same as Wash. U. tuition," said Monroe.

Like Wheaton College, Wash. U. also does not list information about the programs' actual costs, only the University's program costs.

According to a New York Times Article, the New York attorney general's office sent subpoenas to 15 universities requesting data to determine how money relating to study abroad programs are administered and whether universities receive cash bonuses.

"We are doing a wide ranging investigation of campus conduct that impacts middle-class students," Special Assistant to the New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo was

quoted in the article. "We're looking at the financial relationships and the pricing."

While some programs' costs are comparable to the University's tuition price, others significantly deviate from the home tuition. For instance, according to the St. Lawrence University Web site, the cost of their program in Kenya is \$22,217.50. This price covers tuition, room and board and all program activities throughout the semester. The price of tuition for one semester of college at Washington University is \$17,250, not including room and board. The actual cost of tuition for the University's abroad program at Dickenson College's University of Toulouse, however, is \$22,215.

Despite the prospect of paying more than her program's cost, Monroe said her experience in Kenya was well worth the cost.

"I thought it was reasonable to pay Wash. U. tuition because you are getting Wash. U. credit. You are paying the same cost and you are pretty much getting the same credit," said Monroe. "I think that because all programs are held to Wash. U. standards, it makes sense to pay Wash. U. tuition for it."

DANFORTH CENTER ❖ FROM PAGE 1

"We want to provide secure, covered facilities for people who ride bikes for when it is snowing or raining. Also, there will be showers and changing facilities so that people who ride their bikes to class or to work will have a place where they can go to get freshened up," said Malten.

The University Center will be rated LEED Gold, which is the second-highest certification. It is expected to rank in the middle to high end of the Gold spectrum, meaning that the Center exceeds some required LEED standards.

LEED certification affects

all stages of the building, including its maintenance.

"All cleaning within the building will be certified green," said Malten. "That includes green chemicals, equipment and training of the staff to clean in an environmentally-friendly way. The use of green custodial staff is something that [the University is] looking to do campus-wide."

Other innovations will include bamboo flooring, which is a "rapidly renewing material," meaning that it can replenish in less than 10 years. The use of bamboo also gives the building LEED

credits.

Another feature, and one largely driven by student involvement, is the incorporation of dishes to the dining area in place of the disposable containers currently used at many food service locations.

"It's all a matter of space—in Bear's Den and Mallinckrodt, there isn't the space to wash [dishes]. They did plan for that in this building," said Cordova.

Green Action hopes to give tours of the building when it is finished, to educate people about what LEED certification entails.

FINANCIAL AID ❖ FROM PAGE 1

cial support," said Feiner.

The program will cost the University about \$2.5 million the first year, but that amount will likely increase each year.

"We've done both what we think we can afford and sustain. We feel that as we plan for the future, we need to develop more financial aid resources. That will be a big objective for us in the next decade," said Chancellor Mark Wrighton.

The Board of Trustees approved an 8.1 percent increase in endowment spending to make money available for the program, but it is possible that the money put toward the new policy will restrict or prohibit other opportunities for spending.

"If anything, this initiative may make it more difficult to do some other new initiatives," said Feiner. "We are looking for opportunities to save money but do not expect any drastic cuts."

Though the initiative is meant to ease the financial

burdens on some students, others are concerned that the money provided for it will come at the expense of other administrative initiatives.

"While I think that this new policy will help to enrich the Wash. U. community, I hope that cuts don't have to be made elsewhere in the budget to allot money for it," said junior Chad Traush.

Given the sizeable accumulations of debt by present college graduates, the new program may not be bold enough to have a large impact.

"It's not a huge increase in spending considering inflation, but it is a step in the right direction. It does help a number of students and probably the most vulnerable students on campus," said Pedro de la Torres, the issues and organizing associate manager for the Center for American Progress.

The University is not the first to create a financial aid policy that helps to lessen the

financial burden that makes it difficult for students from low-income families to afford college. Similar policies were enacted by Stanford University and Harvard University. Stanford began its new financial aid policy for the 2006-07 academic school year, and Harvard began its policy in 2004 and adjusted it in 2006.

Administrators hope that a policy of allowing eligible students to receive an education without having to pay it off through future debts will allow applicants to consider the University without worrying about its financial cost.

"For every admitted student we're willing to work with them and their family to try to find a way that's possible financially for them to come. We're very anxious to have the admitted students say yes. Our goal is—as I've said—quality, diversity and affordability. We see diversity, for example, as an investment," said Wrighton.

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TEACHER-SHORTAGE BILL ❖ FROM PAGE 1

"It's a policy designed to provide certified teachers for inner-city kids, but the certification standards have been changed. They're not the same standards as in suburban St. Louis," he said.

The new standards proposed in the bill would allow those without university-awarded teaching degrees to teach, provided they become certified by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, a Washington, D.C.-based organization whose accreditation is recognized in only seven states.

While understanding that positions must be filled in the inner city, senior education major Thomas Herpel said he disagrees with the streamlined method in which the bill tackles the teacher shortage.

"I don't feel like making it easier will work," said Herpel of the bill. "Of course they want to lure teachers in, but quality teaching goes a long way."

If the bill becomes a law, Tate says lawmakers must be vigilant about ensuring full disclosure to parents of affected students.

"I think the fair thing to do is to indicate what type of certification the person has," said Tate. "Truth in advertisement. That way, you really know what you're getting."

Tate believes that the legislation ignores the root of the education problem.

"There's a disincentive to work in St. Louis," he said, noting factors like schools losing accreditation and unfavorable retirement programs as deter-

rents to teaching in St. Louis public schools.

"There are other structural problems that go beyond certification requirements," said Tate, who desires "a credible quality experience so people can make a difference."

Tate said that large-scale public initiatives to encourage teaching, like those at the University of Texas and at City College in New York City, must be examined to tackle the shortage.

"I think if they identify the structural problems, then you can generate significant private/public support to implement a system, because people want to support teaching," said Tate.

Erica Reed, a graduate student pursuing a Masters degree in teaching at the Univer-

sity, said she would consider teaching in St. Louis during her career, but wants to gain years of teaching experience before taking a job in the inner city.

"It's a tough job to work in a city school," said Reed. "I imagine it would be a daunting task."

After becoming certified to teach K-12 Latin upon graduation from the University, Herpel plans to find a teaching job and eventually return to graduate school.

"I think a lot of what good teaching is comes from personality," said Herpel. "But I think where you are certified does have a little bit of clout behind it. Specific institutions are better at preparing, and giving you the best experience."



Professor William Tate

COURTESY OF BRIAN COHEN

Former Wash. U. professor put on postage stamp

BY JOSH HANTZ
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Former Washington University professor Gerty Cori is one of four American scientists honored by the U.S. Postal Service this year with a set of postage stamps.

Cori's face and a sketch of the chemical formula she discovered appear on the 41-cent stamp.

Cori, a biochemist, was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine, awarded in 1947 for her research on carbohydrates, which helped explain how energy moves around the body.

"It's not like today where we essentially know all the metabolic pathways," said professor Carl Frieden of the School of Medicine, in a St. Louis Post-Dispatch article. "At that time, it was pretty

much like a black box."

Cori and her husband Carl studied how the body processes carbohydrates and discovered that glycogen, the storage form of sugar, is broken down in the liver into a derivative now known as the Cori ester. A by-product of the process, glucose, then goes back to the muscle to provide energy and lactic acid, which then goes back to the liver to make more glucose. The whole process is known as the Cori cycle.

This research led to further understanding as to how cells convert food to energy and how metabolic diseases like diabetes develop.

Cori was born in 1896 in Prague, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She attended the medical school of the German University of Prague in the 1910s, where

she met her husband. She held a research position at a children's hospital in Vienna before emigrating to the United States in 1922, where she worked at the New York State Institute for the Study of Malignant Diseases until 1931.

Cori came to the University as a research fellow in pharmacology. In 1943, she was named associate professor of research biological chemistry and pharmacology, and in 1947 was appointed professor of biological chemistry.

Cori died in 1957 and was described by her peers as passionate and cultured.

This is the Postal Service's second line of American Scientists stamps, which also features physicist John Bardeen, astronomer Edwin Hubble and chemist Linus Pauling.

OLIN SPORTS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

because the concepts are the same as in other businesses.

"In the business side of [sports], you constantly have to deal with issues of marketing, finances and people. It's no different than working for any marketing company. Many issues are very similar," said Gupta.

Milbourn agrees that the class can benefit students even if they do not pursue a career in sports management.

"Even if they never go into sports and just continue to live as a fan, [the class] may give them a different perspective or way of thinking about a particular problem," said Milbourn.

He added that the class has several benefits to students.

"It provides a set of topics that we don't typically cover in our curriculum. We can bring something that's going to be both exciting and valuable to students. We're always trying to innovate with new subject matters," he said.

Abraham says that the course will look at the history, present situation and the future of the business landscape of sports to prepare the stu-

dents.

"I think this will offer students a panoramic view of sports as a business. Like many businesses, sports has many components," said Abraham.

Milbourn says that the class is also beneficial because many students from the University go on to work for companies that invest heavily in sports.

"The most direct link for our students is the business of sports for the traditional companies that students would take jobs with," he said. "Anheuser-Busch is one of the two major players in advertising in sports. We place many of our business students directly into Anheuser-Busch. Many of the most successful companies in the U.S. have parts of their organizations that are exclusively dedicated to sports."

Chris Teng, a freshman in the business school, said that the class is a great opportunity for students.

"Sports is a growing market and there's a lot of money put into it," said Teng.

Gupta says that the administration will wait to see how students respond to the class

before deciding whether to add additional classes.

"We hope to add more courses as we move forward. We are experimenting with this first course and we will be able to assess our students' interest much better after this [class]," said Gupta.

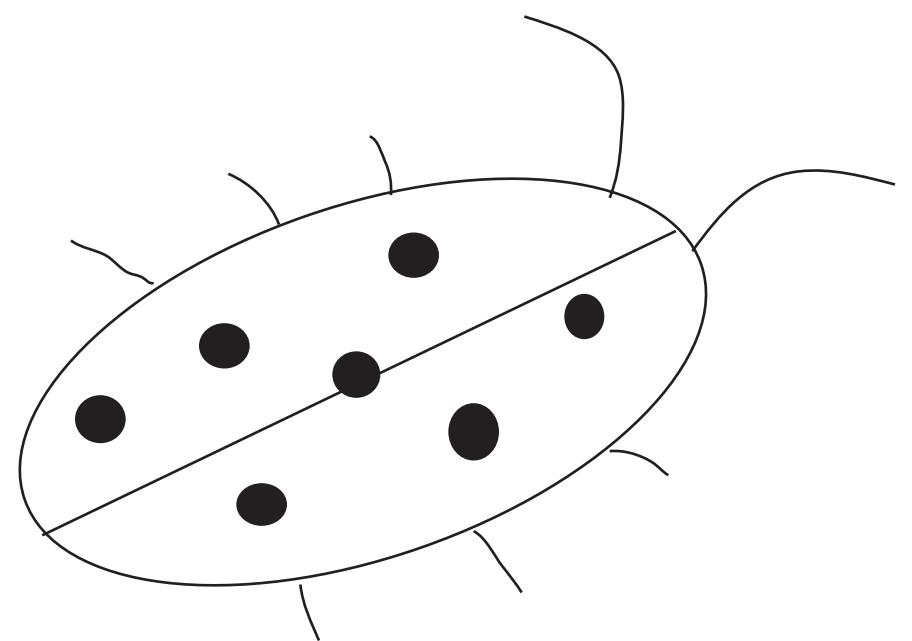
According to Gupta, enrollment in the class far exceeded expectations. One possibility stemming from that high enrollment is that sports management could become a major or minor option.

Gupta points to Olin Business School's major and minor in healthcare management as an example of a program that grew after the University added a class in the area of study.

Gupta says that the class will continue to be improved by considering the student reactions to the class.

"We are very confident about the value [the class] will offer students, but we want to see how the students find it. Once we understand that, then we will set in motion a plan to explore the possibility of more courses," said Gupta.

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Fan buses a commendable effort

In a time when school spirit is most needed, the administration has come through. As Washington University's men's basketball team prepares to make its second consecutive Final Four run, Residential Life and the Athletic Department have gone out of their way to ensure that the Bears' fan base will be adequately represented. We commend their efforts.

Early this morning, three buses of students headed to Salem, Va., an 11 hour bus trip, to cheer on the Red and Green. These buses were completely funded by the school, as were the necessary hotel accommodations and game tickets. The only thing that students will have to pay for during their trip is food. After an attempt at sending a volleyball fan bus to the women's volleyball national championship failed earlier in the year, it is nice to see that

the basketball bus has succeeded.

Trevor MacDonald, who is in charge of marketing and promotions for the Athletic Department, has worked tirelessly this year to do his part to increase Wash. U.'s fan base. He has played an active role in publicizing major events and beginning new initiatives, such as sending fan buses to important sports events as well as promoting Think Pink Day. He is a large piece of the puzzle that makes this possible.

Mary Elliott from Residential Life has been doing a wonderful job of answering questions for students and organizing the accommodations. Elliott noticed the huge student interest and helped set up the third bus which allowed students to make the decision to go to Virginia and extended the deadline by a full day.

Justin Carroll, associate

vice chancellor for students and dean of students, also works to ensure that the Washington University fan base is on par with the athletic ability of students who attend the school. He ensures that all NCAA games are free to students. He also ensured that money was available to fund this particular event. The Lock and Chain Sophomore Honorary honored Carroll at the Feb. 25 game against Brandeis University for his years of service to the community, with the George Washington award at the end of Washington Week.

As a student body, we should not take this free fan trip for granted. Students at Hope College in Holland, Mich., the school the Bears play in the first round, had to pay over \$200 to cheer on their team.

We are lucky to have this opportunity to support our team in their quest for a

national championship.

In the future, we would like to see more all-out athletic events like the fan bus. The fact that multiple buses have been filled shows that school spirit at Washington University is alive and well. It is time to show this spirit throughout the year at other sporting events.

The Athletic Department should also consider bus-ing students to Chicago whenever our sports teams play archrival University of Chicago. Chicago has beaten Wash. U. in both men's and women's basketball UAAs as well as the UAA titles for men's and women's track and field.

As another athletic season draws to a close, we are happy to see that many students will be in attendance for these teams' most important games. To those who made this possible, we say thank you and more importantly, GO BEARS!

Our daily Forum editors:

Monday: Christian Sherden Wednesday: Jillian Strominger Friday: Altin Sila
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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.

My brother's keeper

BY EVE SAMBORN
STAFF COLUMNIST

Two weeks ago, I did not know much about the Gulf Coast. Now I'll never forget it.

I was lucky enough to spend my spring break in Louisiana and Mississippi, helping to rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. What struck me most about my trip was not the amount of alcohol found on Bourbon Street at 6 p.m. on a Wednesday evening, but rather the unfathomable scope of the tragedy. Three years later, the effects of the hurricane are still everywhere.

America is the world's greatest country, as we are told. It is the wealthiest and the most powerful. Above all, it has a government that looks out for its people—unless those people happen to live on the Gulf Coast.

For months, and even years, before Katrina, the federal government knew that the levees in New Orleans could not withstand a Category 5 hurricane and yet it neglected to fix the problem. Rather than spare the money to protect New Orleans before the storm, the government allowed disastrous flooding that killed almost 2,000 people and continues to cost us billions of dollars in property damage and recovery efforts.

Unfortunately the levees are only the beginning of the problem. Bureaucratic disputes and failures left the city of New Orleans without a coherent evacuation plan in case of a disaster. There were not enough efforts to reduce traffic delays and there was no centralized transportation for the thousands of New Orleans residents who did not own cars. Instead, those left behind were sent to the Superdome.

Residents were told to bring enough food and water to survive inside the Superdome for one or two days; ultimately they were trapped for much longer.

Residents of St. Bernard Parish, where my group was working, escaped to their rooftops as floodwaters rapidly approached their ceilings. They waited for five days before being rescued by local teams. On the sixth day, Canadian rescue workers appeared. On the seventh day, the United States federal government finally arrived.

Our government, the government built for the people, left its own citizens stranded on rooftops for seven days. Even the Canadian forces responded faster.

Many of the people we met in St. Bernard Parish

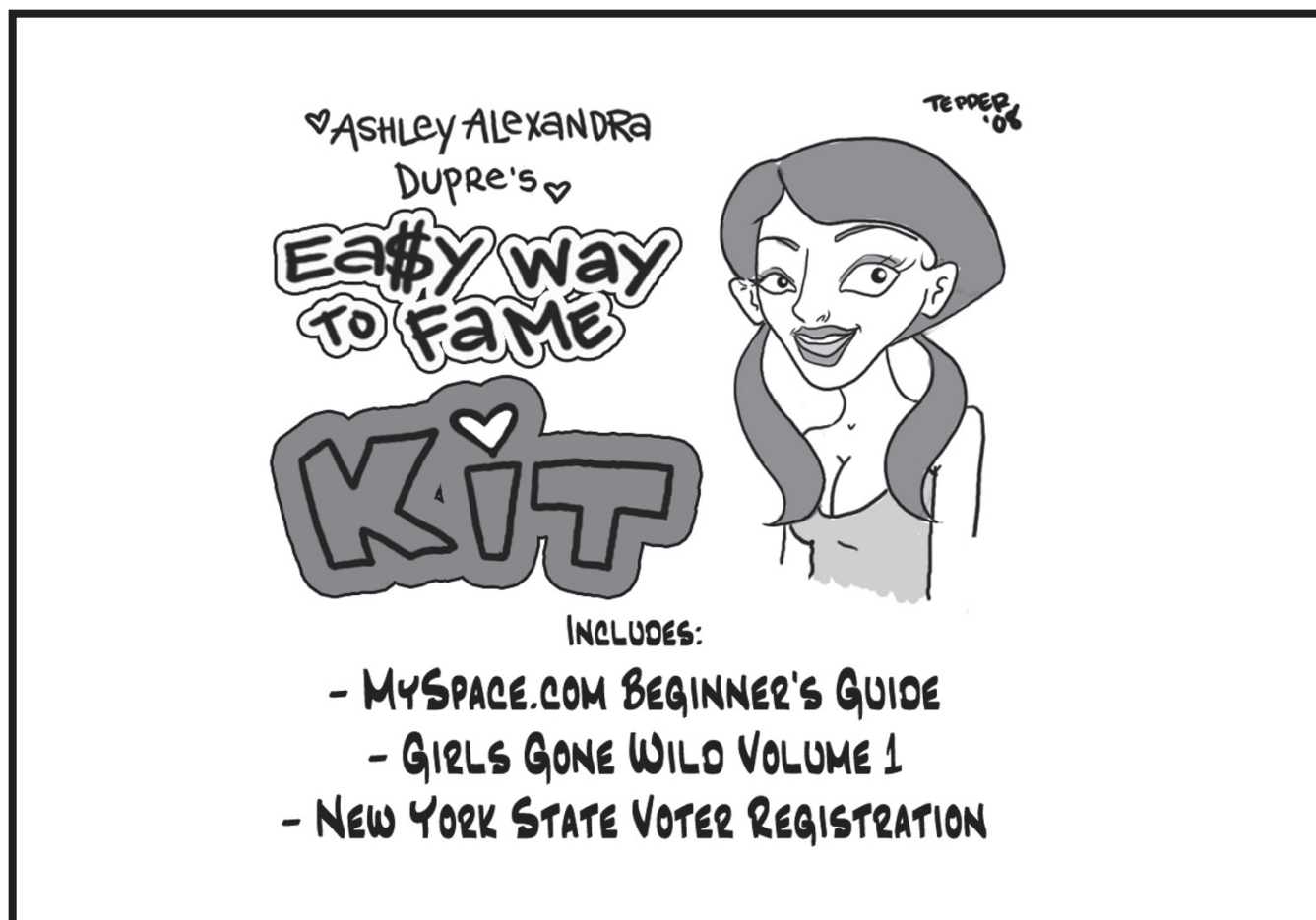
"They should not have to struggle alone. If you have the chance to go to the Gulf Coast to rebuild, take it. The devastation is still shocking and unskilled labor is urgently needed. Besides, the Gulf Coast is a great place to visit and using power tools is way cool."

were police officers, firefighters and nurses. Most had served in the armed forces. These were people who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities and their country, yet when they were in need, our government deserted them.

The problems continue. Federal recovery efforts have been so badly mismanaged that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the government organization charged with disaster relief efforts, has become a four-letter word in the re-

See SAMBORN, page 5

RACHEL TEPPER | EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gonzalez, Todd concert 'speaks to something at the core of humanity'

Dear Editor:

Too often I find that music has the power to be at least as alienating as it is uniting. As we all know, the type of music you enjoy labels you, whether you like it or not. It divides people into aesthetic preference groups, one could say. You are a punk, teeny-bopper, hipster or metalhead. Genres are associated with distinct clothing styles, so even though you might be at a concert with a group of similarly-minded fans, you're also probably judged by how well your wardrobe choices at a concert fit

in with the current fashions (while still expressing your individuality). Sometimes, this can be discouraging.

Wednesday, though, I had the privilege to have a concert-going experience that altogether departed from the norm I have been observing as of late. José Gonzalez and Mia Doi Todd played a concert at Graham Chapel, sponsored by the wonderful people at the Gargoyle. It was breathtaking.

But this is not a concert review. I really want to express my appreciation that music still speaks to something at the core of humanity, that

this quality has not been lost through the division of genres and the sometimes off-putting culture of concerts.

For one thing, the crowd was more diverse than at shows I usually attend, and that's always refreshing. And the venue sure didn't hurt. Graham is beautiful, and when dimly lit, save for the spotlight on the stage, it is also quite intense. The audience, of course, was not standing in small pods, but was aligned in the pews with attention on the music. All of this helped to create an atmosphere conducive to the pure enjoyment of

music, but in the end, it was the presence of the people on stage that made it happen.

Todd's singular voice rang out through Graham. The epic expectations associated with such ambitious song titles as "River of Life" and "Sleepless Nights" were met. Gonzalez and company played with a nuanced style that expressed much more than one usually finds in a three-minute folk song. When Gonzalez once again welcomed Todd to the stage along with three other talented musicians to play "Cycling Trivialities," there was no turning back. Graham

is a big place, and their sound, composed not only of guitar and vocals, but also cajón and harmonium, was reaching every corner. It was this organic act of creation that characterized the concert as a whole.

When Gonzalez initially left the stage, the audience, clapping, requested his return. But this did not feel like your typical standing ovation. There was a lingering presence in the air—the lights remained low, many in the audience were standing, and something felt different. I felt a genuine connection with these strangers around me, a connection built

on the seemingly simple fact that we had all just experienced Todd and Gonzalez's music.

We surely all had our differences, but we also had together been exposed to their words and the beauty and love with which they deliver their music, and I know that I, at least, was more than willingly impressed. This might sound a little out there, but then so is the idea that music unites—and I think that's something most of us want to believe in.

-Tiffany Frye
Class of 2008

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

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Fax: (314) 935-5938
e-mail: letters@studlife.com

All submissions must include the writer's name, class, address and phone number for verification. Student Life reserves the right to edit all letters for style, length, libel considerations and grammar. Letters should be no longer than 350 words in length. Readers may also submit longer articles of up to 750 words as guest columns. Student Life reserves the right to print any submission as a letter or guest column.

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Need-blind admissions are worth the cost

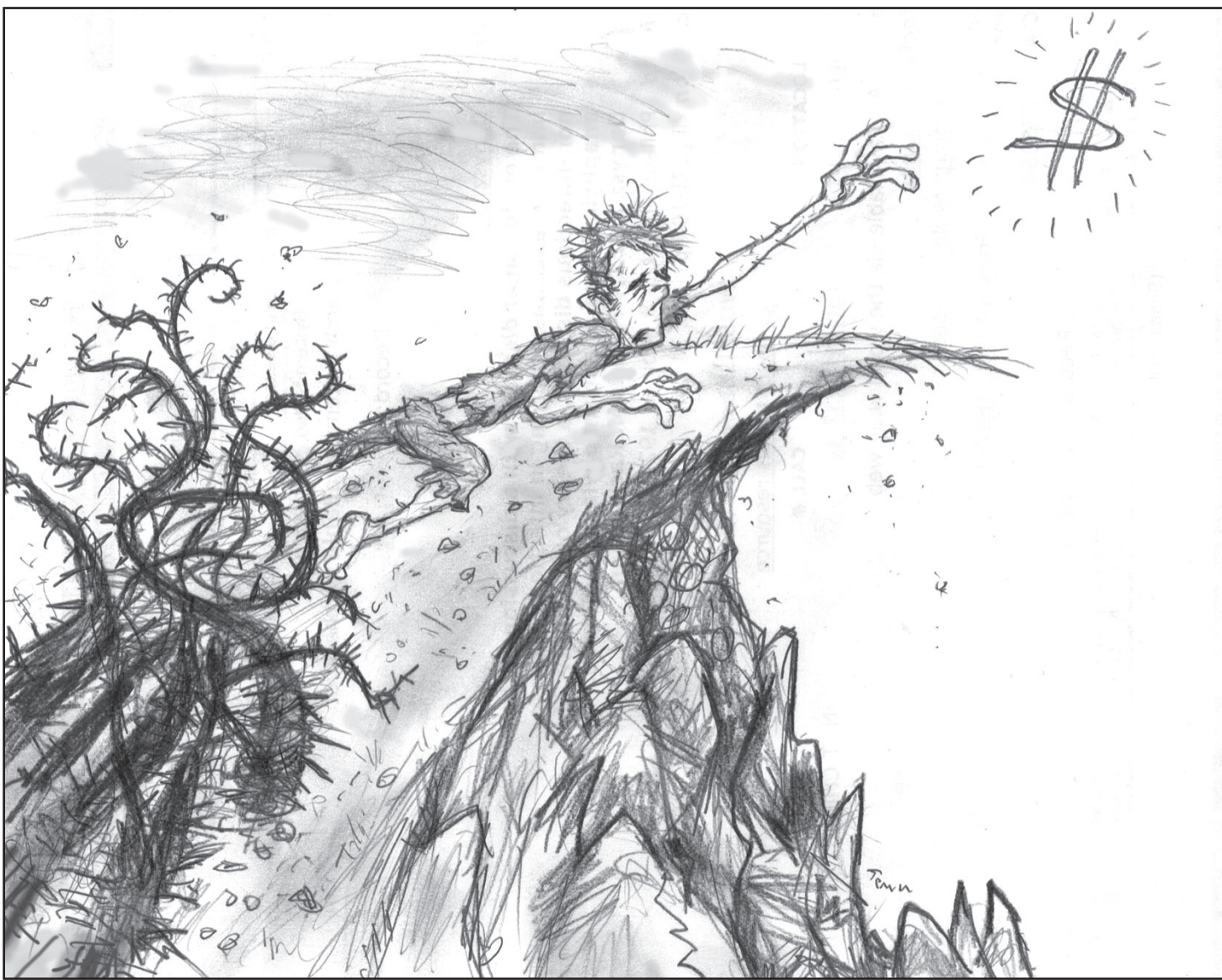


ILLUSTRATION BY TEMU BROWN

BY KATE GAERTNER
STAFF COLUMNIST

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch published an editorial saying that Washington University's recent change in financial aid policy would no longer force families with incomes less than \$60,000 to take out loans. While this is good news, and it certainly does not fall on deaf ears, the article pointed out something interesting.

Our school is "need-blind"—that is, it doesn't take family income into account when making admissions decisions—until it runs out of scholarship money. When there is no financial aid left to pass around, students who do not need aid are admitted over those who do; to quote the Post-Dispatch, "It fills the first part of its class without regard to ability to pay. But once its scholarship pot runs out, it fills the bottom of its class with students who can pay more of their

own way."

What I found shocking in reading the article was the words it used about our university. Washington University was referred to not as a world-class academic institution, but as an "elite, wealthy school." The article was quick to point out that Wash. U.'s new financial aid policy will "affect only about 10% of its students." It made it obvious that we are lacking something—at least in local public perception. And that something, it would seem, is diversity.

Certainly, we have plenty of diversity in the way we've come to understand it: we have racial diversity, diversity on paper. Which is good, and I think we benefit from it. But what we don't have—not really, at least—is socioeconomic diversity. We do not have the diversity of background and experience that should exist at this kind of an institution. After all, not all smart kids are rich.

And while I hope that the

new tuition policy will do something about this lack of diversity, I'm not sure it will. Regardless of whether the University gives loans to lower-income students, the truth remains that Washing-

"Low-income students have enough going against them... The last thing they need is for the University itself to turn them down on the basis of their inability to pay."

ton University admissions are not need-blind. Furthermore, the idea that the University stops giving money when it runs out favors students with financial need who apply early decision, which is a rare occurrence—the binding early admission

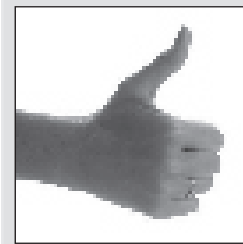
policy makes low-income students leery of applying to a school that they cannot afford, to which they will be required to go, regardless of their aid package.

Low-income students have enough going against them: worse public schools and a financial inability to attend private schools, lesser-educated and lesser-informed parents, and fewer opportunities to make themselves into polished Wash. U. applicants.

The last thing they need is for the University itself to turn them down on the basis of their inability to pay. And while I commend Wash. U. for doing away with loans for low-income students, our school cannot truly be diverse until its administration decides that need-blind admissions are worth the cost.

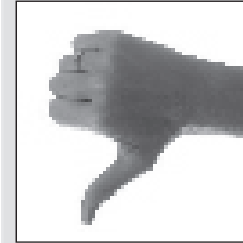
Kate is a freshman in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. She can be reached via e-mail at kgaertner@wustl.edu.

OPPOSABLES



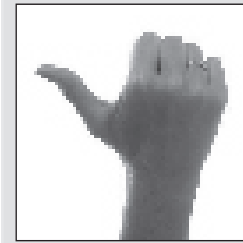
FAN BUSES

Who wouldn't like a subsidized trip to Virginia to watch the Bears play in the Final Four?



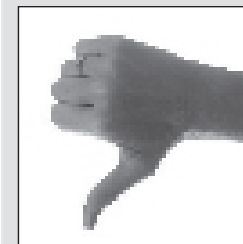
STARBUCKS

A recent court ruling ordered Starbucks to pay its baristas in California more than \$100 million in back tips because store managers illegally took a share of employee tips.



UNLIMITED iTUNES SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's not a bad idea to offer unlimited iTunes music downloads in exchange for a flat fee, but according to BusinessWeek magazine, all of the rumors surrounding this idea are apparently just that.



RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Many cities are deactivating their red light cameras, which catch motorists running red lights in busy intersections. Apparently, cities which depend on moving vehicle citations to supplement their budgets are experiencing shortfalls resulting from the fact that these cameras deter drivers from running red lights.

- Compiled
by Nathan Everly

SAMBORN ❖ FROM PAGE 4

gion. Thousands are still homeless and it is nearly impossible to find a single street that has been fully rebuilt.

Most recently, residents have learned that the FEMA trailers, which have become home to many since the hurricane, contain toxic chemicals. One local sheriff, who provided medical assistance to hundreds in the immediate aftermath of the storm, is dying of cancer that has been linked directly to the formaldehyde found in the trailers.

These residents are not forced to live in trailers because they are waiting for government handouts. Most are actively rebuilding, including working-class families who have invested every spare dollar in their homes. The family we were privileged to help had already completed many of the most difficult tasks themselves, using only do-it-yourself guides and their own remarkable perseverance.

They should not have to struggle alone. If you have the chance to go to the Gulf Coast to rebuild, take it. The

devastation is still shocking and unskilled labor is urgently needed. Besides, the Gulf Coast is a great place to visit, and using power tools is way cool.

But private organizations cannot finish this task alone. Their funds are inadequate and their ability to coordinate is limited. We need to demand more of our government. We need more disaster prevention and relief efforts.

Two weeks ago, I did not know much about the Gulf Coast. I did not live there and I did not have friends or relatives there either. I did not think that Hurricane Katrina had affected my own community. I was wrong.

I met people who love the same country, who share the same hopes and dreams for the future and who welcomed us into their lives as if we were family.

Most importantly, I met people, and they needed help.

Eve is a freshman in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. She can be reached via e-mail at elsambor@wustl.edu.

Obama displayed brilliance Tuesday, but his pastor problem remains unresolved

Last week when the now-infamous video of Barack Obama's pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, was introduced to the public, I, like most people, was horrified. I was not shocked by the statements—I was aware of the existence of those claims. Rather, I was shocked and horrified that Barack Obama, a candidate whom I had strongly supported, volunteered for and donated to, could have been not only a member of this man's church, but could have had such a close and "spiritual" relationship with him. I felt embarrassed and even slightly betrayed.

When I heard that Obama would give a speech that addressed the controversy, then, I was interested but skeptical. I did not see a way out of this for him. A 20-year relationship that had been well-documented and talked about repeatedly by Obama himself could not be erased by a single speech.

Although Obama was unsuccessful in this impossible task on Tuesday, he yet again impressively exceeded expectations. He delivered a brilliant speech on modern race relations in America, linking many of the controversies of the campaign together while

simultaneously addressing issues that most politicians are afraid to touch. It was, simply, one of the best speeches on race I have ever heard. He was brutally honest about not only the country's deep-seated racism, but also his personal ties to such views. Obama said what everyone already knew but was afraid to say: Racism is a part of American society. It is found, in its various forms and degrees, in all groups and at all levels. It's unacceptable but its origins ought to be understood.

Obama did something rare in American politics: He challenged the American people. He challenged the public to acknowledge the prevalence of racial bias, understand those who have such attitudes and confront it, rather than flatly condemn it and "wish it away," as he said.

When have we ever seen a politician truly challenge the American people like this? Could we imagine any other candidate who, with so much to lose, would not take the politically easy road? This moment, in which Obama delivered a speech he had written himself with his political career on the line, was an insight into what he is made of. His ability to act under extreme pressure has been

tested repeatedly, and time and again he has delivered. And he hasn't delivered in the way a conventional politician would, placating people's fears, saying what they want to hear, and taking advantage of their ignorance; instead, he stuck to what he believes in and appealed to the American

"Obama said what everyone already knew but was afraid to say: Racism is a part of American society. It is found, its various forms and degrees, in all groups and at all levels. It's unacceptable but its origins ought to be understood."

people to improve collectively. Tuesday's speech was a bold, courageous and extremely dangerous move on Obama's part—evidence that his "candidacy of change" may indeed be more than just a campaign slogan. As I watched Barack Obama on Tuesday, I felt as if I were witnessing the next

phase of American social progress.

But as brilliant as the speech and his courage were, it must be remembered that the true purpose of giving the speech was not to analyze modern race relations but to explain and defend his deep ties to Rev. Wright. On this level, despite offering the best defense possible, he did not succeed entirely. His pastor problem is not completely solved. Many questions remain. Why weren't his extreme disagreements and concerns with Rev. Wright voiced earlier? Why did he reject such views only when videotapes of the sermons became public?

Obama's attempt to draw a parallel between Rev. Wright's hateful remarks and his white grandmother's fear of black men fell short. The key difference between the two is that Obama did not choose his grandmother; he did choose his pastor. Obama did not grow up in Trinity United Church of Christ. He chose to attend the church and chose Rev. Wright as his spiritual mentor as an adult. He chose to attend the church for 20 years, even after he heard such sermons, and he chose to bring his children to the church. Why did he make these choices? Why is someone with these insane beliefs the source of his spiritual

guidance?

These types of questions could not have been adequately answered. Because of this, the uncertainty and uneasiness created by the revelation of these sermons remain. That is not to say that Obama ascribes to the beliefs of his pastor, but it is to say that the thought of this lunatic having the president's ear is deeply disturbing.

However, Obama would not be the first president to have ties to these types of beliefs. The United States has had presidents with ties to racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic beliefs in the past and some presidents have even held these beliefs themselves. As Obama acknowledged, these views are an undeniable part of our society that is deeply rooted in our past.

Finally, it is interesting to take note of the inexplicable double standard with regard to this controversy. In 2000, Jerry Oppenheimer reported in his biography of the Clinton marriage that Hillary Clinton's family had a history of anti-Semitism and even that early in her career she had yelled at a Jewish aide using anti-Semitic language. Though she vehemently denied this incident, it was corroborated by multiple witnesses, including the aide himself to Oppenheimer. While this became the subject of con-

trovery during her Senate campaign in 2000, it has not been brought up since. But the real double standard in this controversy can be found with Republican nominee John McCain. Last month, prominent pastor John Hagee endorsed McCain for president and has accompanied him on the campaign trail. Hagee has stated that Hurricane Katrina was proof "of the judgment of God against the city of New Orleans" for its tolerance of homosexuals. How is this any different than Rev. Wright's claim that "America's chickens are coming home to roost" after 9/11? Why do John McCain and John Hagee get free passes?

In any case, Obama's candidacy is now in jeopardy. Recent polls have shown that his national lead over Clinton has all but vanished. Though he will most likely lead Clinton in pledged delegates, her argument to superdelegates that she is more electable has become much stronger. Obama displayed his brilliance on Tuesday, and I still believe he is the best choice for president. However, despite his wishes to play above the politics of old, he just may be brought down by them.

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

SPORTS

Softball seizes spring break success



SCOTT BRESSLER | STUDENT LIFE

Junior Lindsay Cavarra bats in a game late last season as the team watches. Over spring break the softball team won the UAA Championship for the fifth consecutive year.

BY JOHANN QUA HIANSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University stormed through Florida, winning 13 straight games and its fifth consecutive conference title.

The Bears swept all six of their Rebel Springs Games and won the first seven of eight University Athletic Association (UAA) games to take home the UAA title. The Bears' 14-game winning streak that began in Texas was ended in a 3-1 loss to Brandeis University on Saturday.

Senior Amy Vukovich kicked off the celebration with a three-run homer in the seventh inning that gave the Bears a 6-4 win in a rematch against Case Western Reserve University, ensuring Wash. U. a claim to the UAA title.

Down 6-1, senior Krista Swip started the seven-run seventh inning comeback with a homer against Emory on Saturday. After senior Karli Stander flied out, sophomore Carter Malouf knocked in a double. Sophomore Kerry Kreitman was retired on a groundout and with

two outs in the bottom of the sixth, the Bears were in peril.

"It really showed our character," said Swip.

But the game was not over, as a crucial fielding error allowed sophomore Ally Berenter to advance and Malouf to score. From that point on, it was a steady stream of singles, hard running and a double by Swip. Berenter, Vukovich, junior Lindsay Cavarra, senior Laura D'Andrea (who homered in the third) and sophomore Megan Fieser all scored.

"Scoring six runs with two outs is almost unheard of in a game," said Berenter. "It's the kind of game that will be remembered by both teams."

Fieser ensured the win with a strikeout and the team retired the side in order. The victory over Emory ensured the Bears had sole ownership of the UAA crown this year.

"It was the sweetest Emory victory ever," said senior captain Kaylyn Eash.

Throughout the course of the week, the team showed their ability to slaughter opponents and put together comebacks.

The Bears began with a 17-4

slaughter against Muhlenberg College tying a school record of 21 hits in a game. The Mules were doomed from the start as the Bears scored 10 runs in the first inning. Eash hit two homers, Kreitman went four for four and Stander shined through with a new school record of going five for five at the plate.

"I actually had no idea it was a new school record," said Stander. "Being in the category with [Jamie Kressel and Laurel Sagartz, who hold most records] was pretty sweet."

The pitchers who have only seen action this season have been flamethrowers with terrific performances this week. Fieser (4-0), who picked up her first career win and career save earlier, allowed one hit in the first inning before shutting down Case's offense in an 8-0 victory over Case Western Reserve.

"I found that starting up pitching again might help the team this year," said Fieser. "I am really happy to help bring our team to victory in any way possible."

Freshman Claire Voris struck out 16 batters in the 1-0 eight-inning win against No. 14 Coe

College. Voris (9-0) improved on that mark to tie the school record of 17 strikeouts against the University of Rochester. The rookie nearly had a no-hitter but allowed two hits in the sixth inning in the first victory against Rochester.

"It felt great, but we're not done yet," said Voris. "This team has a lot of potential, and I know none of us want the UAA title to be the peak of our season."

Fieser (4-0), who picked up her first career win and career save earlier, allowed one hit in the first inning before shutting down Case's offense in an 8-0 victory over Case Western Reserve.

The week saw other firsts as sophomore Caitlyn Hoffman knocked her first homer against Muhlenberg and Voris had the same feat against Rhode Island College.

The Bears will play their first home game this season with a doubleheader against No. 14 Wartburg College scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

"We're all really excited and hope fans come out," said Cavarra.

Around the WU

Friday 3/21:

Baseball: 1 p.m. doubleheader against Benedictine University

Softball: 1:30 p.m. doubleheader against Wartburg College

Saturday 3/22:

Baseball: 1:30 p.m. against Illinois Wesleyan University

Thursday 3/27:

Softball: 3 p.m. doubleheader against Incarnate Word

Women's tennis: 4:30 p.m. against McKendree University.

Track: March 27-29 hosting the Washington University Invitational

Women's swimming, diving finishes sixth at NCAAs

BY UNAIZ KABANI
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University placed sixth at the 2008 National College Athletic Association Division III Women's Swimming and Diving Championships held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, on Saturday, March 15. The team scored 224 points, enough for the second-best finish in school history. Kenyon College won the meet with 566.5 points while University Athletic Association rival Emory University finished fourth with 288 points.

"We were very happy with our team performance," said junior Kelly Kono. "We were ranked eighth before the meet, so to be able to improve is very encouraging."

The Lady Bears broke a host of school records during the weekend. Senior Meredith Nordbrock paced the Red and Green, as she recorded three All America finishes.

Nordbrock took third in the 200-yard individual medley, fourth in the 400-yard individual medley and fifth in the 200-yard backstroke, shattering Wash. U. records in all three events.

Her time of 4:22.19 in the 400-IM broke the NCAA record, but stood only until eventual

event champion Amanda Nicholson of Williams College posted a time of 4:20.31.

In the 1,650-yard freestyle, Kono topped her own school record with her time of 17:11.16, which was good for third place. She also placed seventh in the 200-yard freestyle and eight in the 500-yard freestyle with season-best times of 1:53.19 and 4:59.25, respectively. Kono earned All-America honors for all three events.

"I didn't improve my times as much as I had wanted," said Kono. "But given the circumstances, I thought I did well."

On the diving side, senior Priya Srikanth scored two All-America finishes. Srikanth placed fifth in the one-meter diving springboard event with 433.90 points, a personal best in the event as she finished 11th at the 2007 national championships. The senior also finished eighth in the three-meter springboard event with 382.90 points.

Three Wash. U. relay teams grabbed All-America accolades during the meet.

"I was very impressed with our relay performance," said Kono. "Competing in all five relays played a big part [in our team score] and we were able to rise to the challenge."

The 400-yard freestyle team of Kono, Nordbrock, senior Kris-



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

Washington University's women's swimming and diving team finished sixth at last weekend's NCAA Championship meet. All eight competing swimmers received All-America accolades.

ten Mann and sophomore Liz Caravati broke the school record of 3:31.06 set last year, with a time of 3:30.85.

The 800-yard freestyle relay squad, composed of Kono, Nordbrock, senior Katie Hodges and sophomore Jessie Lodewyk came in fourth place with a time

of 7:36.71. The 200-yard medley relay team finished fifth with a season-best time of 1:47.38. Nordbrock, Caravati, Mann and freshman Claire Henderson missed the Wash. U. school record by .10 seconds.

The team loses six seniors, including Srikanth, the only

diver, but Kono still remains optimistic for next year.

"We are going to lose a considerable [number] of seniors, but I was really impressed with our younger swimmers," said Kono. "I'm also excited about our incoming freshmen, so next season looks very promising."

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Breakfast for All 8:45 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m.
Celebration of our Risen Lord 11:00 a.m.

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CADENZA

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

arts & entertainment

MOVIE REVIEWS

Taylor drills for laughs, doesn't quite strike oil

BY BRIAN STITT
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

The newest movie from uber-producer Judd Apatow and two of his writing cronies (Seth Rogen and Kristofor Brown) is sure to get mauled by critics for being formulaic, over-the-top and juvenile. I wish I could defend it as a misunderstood pop-art classic, an ode to adolescence in the vein of the great John Hughes teen pictures of the 80s. I wish that I could tell you that star Owen Wilson is in top form as the eponymous loser who convinces a bunch of kids he's a bully-bashing bodyguard worthy of their bar mitzvah money.

I can't do that, because "Drillbit Taylor" doesn't work on the highbrow/low humor teeter-totter Hughes managed in his best work (funny, because the script of "Taylor" is based on a 40 page treatment written by John Hughes' alter-ego Edmond Dantes).

Owen Wilson, as always oozing his likeable beach-bum charm, can't pull off more than feigned interest for much of the picture. I can, however, and will, say that I enjoyed "Drillbit Taylor" a great deal, despite its flaws.

The movie quite refreshingly casts fairly experienced child actors as kids their actual age. Freshmen Wade (Nate Hartley) and Ryan (Troy Gentile) look at their first day of high school as a chance to define themselves as teenagers. Unfortunately for them, Wade tries to protect a squealing nerd from the school bully, Filkins (a terrifyingly psychotic Alex Frost) and all three end up joining the nerd as the new targets for Filkins' myriad aggressions. Filkins' parents spend most of their time in Hong Kong, so as an emancipated minor he lives without any immediate discipline. As his three victims realize, with a mixture of awe and fear, "He's above the law." Every sort of torture (short of waterboarding), combined with an apathetic principal lead the three kids to seek out a professional bodyguard. The only one they can

afford happens to be Drillbit Taylor, a scheming homeless army-deserter who passes himself off as a special forces-trained soldier of fortune. In order to milk the most money out of these upper-middle-class misfits, Taylor refuses to beat up their bully, instead opting for improvised training techniques that he claims will help these kids solve their own problems. But really, he's more interested in the resale value of their Game Boys and iPods.

While director Steven Brill never seems to find the right balance between the kids' training and Drillbit's life on the streets, "Drillbit Taylor" rises above many similar teen movies if only because it captures the way it feels to be a kid. Sure, no high school student could be as brutally sadistic as Filkins and still convince the principal it was just some lighthearted hazing, but sometimes the halls of administrative power can feel immovably forbidding to kids.

While this movie does not in any way approximate what it is actually like to be a kid, the sense of helplessness is wonderfully evinced. Each of the kids feels uncomfortable talking to his parents, who are usually out of the house anyway, so they end up confiding in Drillbit, who

starts to genuinely care for these kids.

While Drillbit's relationship with a lusty teacher mostly distracts from the proceedings, Wade's crush on a cute classmate serves as a worthy parallel highlighting the difficulties of talking to girls, no matter your age.

The greatest testament to "Drillbit Taylor['s]" quality is that I laughed more than once. But I felt like none of the other critics did. Maybe that's because I happen to like sophomoric comedy, but hopefully it is because they simply don't know what it's like to be a high school student these days. Maybe I don't either, and teens will hate it as well, but I think anything with this kind of earnest good-nature that features Owen Wilson, who is a joy whether or not he is phoning a performance in, should be a treat for its target audience. I'm sure nobody liked "Weird Science" at first glance either.

Drillbit Taylor

Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Starring: Owen Wilson, Nate Hartley, Troy Gentile, Alex Frost
Directed by: Steven Brill



(Left to right) Wade (Nate Hartley), Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson), Emmitt (David Dorfman) and Ryan (Troy Gentile) conspire to defeat a nasty school bully in "Drillbit Taylor."

In defense of Ang Lee's "The Hulk"

BY BRIAN STITT
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

While not the most hated of comic book movies ("Batman and Robin"—now there's a universally-reviled flick), Ang Lee's "The Hulk," is remembered by most as an overlong, pretentious snooza-palooza. But, as has been the case since his inception, "Hulk" is just misunderstood by puny humans. While I cannot successfully argue that "The Hulk" is not overly long (it could have trimmed at least 15 minutes of brooding and still worked), I will argue that it is a worthy piece of entertainment nonetheless.

My argument consists of three main points.

Point #1: It's not "The Hulk[s]" fault it wasn't the movie people expected.

Anyone who had seen anything Ang Lee directed before 2003, including his Wuxia superhero romance "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," should have known that "The Hulk" was not going to be "Spider-Man." Anybody who had read an Incredible Hulk comic book should have known the same thing. The Hulk is a representation of an abuse-surviving scientist's roaring id, and therefore has necessary psychological overtones. Ang Lee's most kinetic movie up to that point was about unsummated love. He makes slow, cerebral movies, and no one can reasonably argue that the Hulk doesn't work as one of those. Eric Bana, while possibly miscast, turns in a good performance as Bruce Banner, a man who cannot let himself feel any emotions lest his forgotten past grow to control him. His relationship with Betty Ross is rendered impossible by his emotional impotency. His dreams feature an ominous locked door (one of Ang Lee's favorite metaphors) that literally contains his past. That past is inextricably linked to his family through his father's genetic manipulations and his blocked memories.

I will not argue that "The Hulk" is for everyone. Honestly, it seems to be made for a very small, specific audience: people who both like art movies and have intimate knowledge of Hulk mythology. The character of Bruce's father alone bears allusion to three classic Hulk characters: The Leader, who was also a lab janitor before he mutated himself with gamma rays; The Absorbing Man, whose powers David Banner displays after that mutation; and Zzzax, a being of pure electricity whom David resembles at the film's admittedly protracted climax. This layering of villains would be lost on anyone not steeped in Hulk history, and yet the movie retains an indie aesthetic meant more for the Merchant-Ivory set.

Just because a movie costs \$100 million doesn't mean it can't push people. I can understand that some wanted more action in what should have been a potential tentpole. Which brings me to...

Point #2: The scenes with the Hulk in them were amazing.

If I hear one more "The Hulk looked like Shrek on steroids" comment, I'm going to plotz. People who wanted the Hulk to look better than he did want special effects to do things that they can't. Back in the dark age of 2003, no combination of makeup or CGI could have

made a better-looking Hulk than we saw in that movie. His movement (a motion-captured performance from Ang Lee) was naturalistic and amazingly human for a muscle-bound monster. Whether throwing tanks, running through rock canyons or making an awkward jump and landing in the desert sands, the Hulk was exciting to watch and retained the ability to display a variety of facial expressions. Perhaps the movie could have used more action scenes, but what we saw of the Hulk was spectacular. Hulk smashing stuff never looked so good.

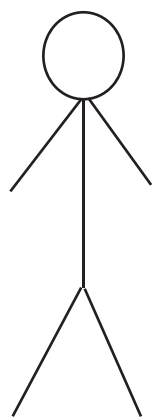
And that brings us to my final and strongest point...

Point #3: Hulk Hands are one of the greatest toys ever made.

Even if you disagree with every point I make, this movie, and more importantly the marketing blitz that surrounded it, spawned the electronic Hulk Hands, with smash-n-bash sound effects. These giant foam, fist-shaped gloves were not only soft enough to allow any child (or journalist) to bash his brother repeatedly in the head, but they also made smashing sounds while doing it. Anything that facilitates me running around the house, half-naked, screaming like an idiot pretending to smash everything in sight gets high marks from me.



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Tam-Tam African Restaurant, while showing great promise, falls short of expectations.

BY PETER DAVIS
SCENE REPORTER

Have you ever heard the song "Africa" by Toto? Last week I listened to half of it before changing stations. However, hearing just part of that terrible song provided the inspiration for this week's restaurant review: African cuisine. Not all that surprisingly, St. Louis is not overflowing with African restaurants. But after doing a little bit of research, I discovered Tam-Tam African Restaurant only about 20

minutes away. It's a little bit hard to find, hidden away in a small strip mall in the middle of another strip mall next to a pretty questionable-looking liquor store. From the outside, Tam-Tam wasn't terrifically inviting. Stepping into the restaurant wasn't much better. My first thought was that the place was falling apart. The colors were all dull; the walls appeared to be cracking. The only painting on the wall was that of a blazing sun on the dry desert terrain. The barrenness conveyed the message

that the reason people go to Tam-Tam is for the food and companionship of others. Oh, and the music. For a place that otherwise seemed extremely boring, Tam-Tam had a DJ station set up with state-of-the-art computers and a sound system. I went at midday, so the music was pretty mild, but one gets the sense that it might get crazy up in there come sunset. Clearly other African people know about this place, as most of the other groups in the restaurant were of African descent, many of them wearing headdresses and

Stepping Out

Tam-Tam African Restaurant
35 Florissant Oaks Shopping Center
St. Louis, MO 63031
3314-921-3805
Price Range: \$5-15

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

authentic African apparel. It appeared as if many of the customers were friends of the owner and staff. I often heard customers yelling out to the kitchen from their tables about how their dish needed more lamb on it. Maybe the customers were just very assertive.

There was one waiter working the entire restaurant, which would later prove problematic. However, he was extremely friendly, and shortly after seating me he brought fried bread called "croquette" to the table. This was truly unbelievable—hands down the best pre-meal bread-type thing I've ever had. Imagine flatbread that has been partially fried so that it's crisp, but still fresh and chewy. The croquette was lightly salted and accompanied by a wonderful spicy salsa that reminded me of bruschetta kicked up a notch. After plowing through these, I said aloud to my friends that this was going to be the best restaurant I've reviewed all year. Famous last words.

As I stated earlier, the waiter was very friendly and personable. However, there was a slight problem with the actual service. Once the croquette was eaten, I was

hoping to get the appetizer maybe five or 10 minutes later. I was not expecting to wait an hour. Every time the curtains to the kitchen opened up and the waiter came out, conversation immediately stopped and all eyes turned to see if finally the food was coming. I tried all the tricks in the book to make the experience seem shorter. I pulled the go-to-the-bathroom-and-hopefully-when-you-come-back-the-food-will-magically-have-arrived trick. I tried sleeping, watching TV, actually talking to my friends. I would have tried the ol' keep-drinking-water-and-you-won't-feel-as-hungry trick, but the waiter never refilled our water glasses. Now we know why they have that desert painting; so that we have context for our dehydration.

The appetizer finally arrived, along with the rest of the main dishes. I got samosas—triangular pastries stuffed with spiced fillings. To my displeasure, the only variety Tam-Tam offered was fish-filled samosas. However, I decided to brave the potential sickness I would feel to try one of the house specialties. To my great satisfaction, they had run out of fish, and rather than ask us if we still wanted samosas, they decided they'd fill the pastries with ground beef. This was one act of shady business practice that I was glad to be a victim of. Unfortunately, the samosas were rather bland. There was a hint of spice to the meat, but in general to get any taste I had to cover them in the salsa left over from the croquette. The texture of the pastry was somewhat similar to that of ravioli. I wish it had been a little crunchier, as it felt almost floppy when handling it.

The first main dish was the goat steak. I don't recall ever eating goat before, but in reality I could taste no distinguishable difference

between goat steak and the cow variety. The main thing that I noticed was that the meat was very tough, and, similar to the samosas, mostly flavorless. The meat came with bone intact, which my mother would have loved, but for me, it was annoying, as it meant that there was far less actual meat. The dish came with french fries and a salad. The salad actually was quite delicious. There appeared to be little pieces of tomato and pepper hidden in the leaves that served to give the salad a great crunch. The dressing was a great topping, reminding me of a type of red-wine vinaigrette. The best pieces of meat were those that were surrounded by the flavor of the salad.

The other dish was the Djolloff rice. This consisted of chunks of lamb and fried rice. This plate was actually pretty good. The lamb was tender, moist and flavorful. The taste of garlic and onion was clearly present, but not overwhelming. Tam-Tam does not give steak knives, which was really annoying for the goat steak. However, this was not a problem for the lamb, as it practically fell apart. It was as if the meat had been cooked for hours to make it so deliciously tender. The rice was a pretty boring side to the lamb, as it had no special flavors to offer and didn't taste especially fresh. Nevertheless, compared to the goat steak and samosas, this plate was a winner.

Tam-Tam African Restaurant is a case of a restaurant with great promise falling vastly short of expectations. I went near closing time on Sunday, so it is possible that during more normal hours the service would be better and the food fresher. It might be worth the risk to try out this place, as it is not often that we get to try African cuisine. And at the very least, you'll have a different cultural experience.

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ROMANCE ❖ FROM PAGE 10

them well enough and trust them to respect your bounds of privacy. Even though you lose a lot of your personal space when you share a roof, you don't have to lose every shred of privacy. Make sure to have a conversation with your significant other about your privacy expectations in the apartment you would share. Agree that you will give them space to store things they want to keep private, and make clear you want that in return. Even more importantly, agree to respect each other's need for private time.

And to consider a worst-case scenario: Living together makes breaking up far more complicated. Clearly, you can't predict when or if your breakup is going to happen, especially if you're in a good stage now and are considering moving in together. Think about it, and make sure that you are willing to deal with having to move out and find another apartment quickly if you break up. Ending a relationship is complicated enough, and you need to be aware that if the relationship goes bad while you're living together, someone is

going to have the stress of moving to a new apartment on top of the stress of breaking up and staying current with school work despite the emotional trauma.

Living together can sometimes be very successful. It can be a great way for each of you to develop in the relationship. If you are considering marriage and your religious beliefs don't prohibit living together, it is a very important step to take. It's good to know whether you are compatible living together, especially before considering a lifelong partnership.

Sometimes living together works, and sometimes it doesn't. Like everything in a relationship, you never know for sure until you try.

But this new step cannot be taken lightly. Unless you have thought through all of the bad things that could happen as well as all of the good things, you won't be able to make an educated choice of whether that's a good place to take your relationship.

As you would do any time you consider letting someone into your household, think carefully.

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

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Crossword

ACROSS

- In the arms of Morpheus
- Put straight
- Split in half
- Boards a jet
- List of names
- Wages
- Sci-fi characters
- Bic tip
- Ms. Fabray
- Skyscraper figures
- Red or White follower
- Succumb to worry
- Animal house
- With it
- Waterway
- Tack on
- Jewel weight
- Farewell, mon ami
- Equal score
- Delete
- Pound sounds
- Bowler or boater
- Craps natural
- Stitch up
- Doze
- Shipshape
- Fiddle stick
- Most effortless
- Witty saying
- Jurisprudence
- Just a touch
- Maryland player
- Sanctuary
- Start of a number
- Bounded upward
- Made unhappy
- Mental strain

DOWN

- Pasture measure
- Channel for coins
- Fewer
- Dig in
- Happening
- Dot
- Plains, IL
- Mindless
- Watery impact
- Shepard or Greenspan
- Unfurnished
- University credits
- Deal with
- Elizabeth I's favorite
- Inhalation
- Saturates
- New Delhi residents
- Carnival attraction
- Wicked
- Italian desserts
- Mom or dad
- Wiley subterfuge
- Duty assignment
- High rating
- On a cruise
- Portable shelter
- Firearm
- Lustrous gems
- Experimental versions
- Grand musical drama
- Pumped-up derivative
- Ammonia
- Sugary
- Diploma awardee
- Track contest
- Hoodwink
- Many moons
- Resting places
- Composer Rorem
- Distant

Solutions

S	S	E	R	J	S	D	E	N	E	D	D	V	S	
E	d	v	e	r	t	E	D	O	C	V	E	H	V	
E	G	N	J	E	R	N	I	d	V	R	E	L		
B	V	D		M	V	T		M	V	H	G	I	E	
L	V	E	N		d	V	N		M	E	S			
N	E	A	E	S		J	V	H	S	d	T	E	A	
E	S	V	H	E		E	I	L	N	E	I	d	V	
L	V	H	V	O		D	O	V	H	E	A	I	R	
X	O	S		S	E	I	H	O	I	N	S			
E	L	J	E	N	V	N		B	I	N	S	T	E	
S	E	I	H	V	T	V	S		H	E	J	S	O	R
S	E	N	V	L	P	N	E	E	A	V	E	L	E	S
E	S	N	B	V	S	I	D		P	E	E	L	S	V

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SCENE

BEHIND THE SCENES

What being an RA is all about

BY SCOTT FABRICANT
SCENE REPORTER

Do you remember your freshman resident advisor (RA)? Perhaps more tellingly, do you remember your sophomore or junior RA? The Residential Advising program is one of the most vital aspects of the undergraduate experience here at Washington University, and there's more to it than meets the eye.

But what does the program look like from the side of the RAs themselves?

For the 125 undergraduate students who've stepped into the role, it can be a time-consuming and stressful, but very fulfilling experience all at once. There are many individual reasons someone would choose to be an RA, but it often includes a desire to make a difference or give something back to the University community.

Junior and current Koenig 3 RA Kyle Bukowski was inspired by his own freshman year RAs and floormates.

"I had a great experience on my freshman floor and I wanted to give that experience to others," said Bukowski. "I really love the focus on community at Wash. U., and I wanted to create a community for freshmen where they could learn how to live together and how to grow as people outside of the classroom."

Others, like Alyssa Pagliere, an RA in the Greenway apartment complex, had aspired to be an RA since their first days on campus.

"From day one, I knew I wanted to be [an RA]," said Pagliere. "I wanted to be the person who knew what to do, and I wanted to be one of the first responders, to help people when they needed it."

Freshman year is a unique experience, and this is reflected in the RA experience. Serving as a freshman RA and being an upperclassman RA are two very different jobs.

"When you have freshmen coming in, you have needy people," said Pagliere. "As an upperclassman RA, you have to deal with similar issues: roommate conflicts, noise problems. But you also have apathy. It's very hard to pull that all together and make a community that ResLife wants."

Pagliere and others have said that freshmen floors are more conducive to a bonding community experience because everything is so new.

Some RAs, like Bukowski, always knew they wanted to advise freshmen. Others, like Steven Hollander, an RA on Village 4, wanted to make sure the upperclassmen have

just as good a residential experience.

"Everyone focuses their energies on making the freshman experience wonderful and fun, but the upperclassmen are left to fend for themselves," said Hollander. "I want to try to focus my energies on making the upperclassman experience as fun as the freshman experience."

Still others have their choice dictated by circumstances.

"I would've been a freshman RA, but I'm also a varsity athlete," said Pagliere. "It's really hard to have the time to always be on the floor. I didn't want to leave town for a swim meet every other week and have all my rezzies think, 'She's abandoning us.'"

RA candidates select certain preferences on their application, but ultimately the decision of placement rests in the hands of Residential Life.

"[RA preferences] are something we factor in, but it's not the only criteria we use," said Tim Lempfert, associate director of Residential Life. "There's no specific hard and fast rule on what makes a candidate for an upperclassman RA or a freshman RA. The reality is that lots of candidates would be good in either community, so we have to balance our needs with what our candidates are interested in."

Becoming an RA is not an easy process. RA candidates initially apply online and must provide grades, essays and letters of reference. They then undergo a four-week workshop called Lead Sessions, in which the candi-

dates are simultaneously trained and evaluated.

"Each week focuses on different components or roles that an RA is or does," said Lempfert. "We have an opportunity to see how they interact within the group."

Afterwards, the candidates interview with a Residential College Director (RCD) and current RAs. The RCDs then choose the candidates they wish to hire for their staff.

"As an RCD, I try to hire RAs who will bring something unique to my team," said Dee Campanella, RCD of Wayman Crow residential college. "In my mind, an ideal staff is one that is comprised of students who represent a wide range of majors, class years, races, religions, sexual orientations, abilities and life experiences."

RCDs in turn act as "RAs for RAs," said Bukowski.

"They are our support network and make sure we are doing our job to the best of our ability," he explained.

RA training doesn't end after being hired. In addition to the Lead Sessions and a two-week training session in the summer, RAs continue to have group training every Monday for the first part of the year and then once a month later in the year.

"You have to train yourself to be an open listener, to be accessible, aware of diversity issues, social justice issues," said Pagliere. "Training [teaches us] a lot of that."

The other side of being an RA—the part residents often like less than the community-building part—is main-

taining control of the floor. Students don't like having their parties broken up, and according to Bukowski, RAs don't like doing it, either.

"An RA must walk a fine line between friend and authority figure," said Bukowski. "Discipline should never be harsh from an RA. If something is that grievous, then an RCD will handle it."

Freshman Eli Keehn, a resident of Lien 3, does not resent the authority of his RAs.

"There have been a couple of times when they've had to shut [parties] down, but they've always done it in a friendly way that makes it clear they don't hate you for doing it, so it doesn't really damage the relationship at all. They're able to deal with it in a respectful way that nobody feels their rights are being trampled on," said Keehn.

Ultimately, the RA-resident interaction is more about fun than authority.

"One of my RAs has a movie night in his room every week or so," said Keehn. "And he'll hang out in the hall with people at night and talk. Both [RAs] are just easy to talk to."

With 125 RAs, there's quite an array of different people and personalities. But, according to Hollander, there are a few traits they should all have in order to be an RA.

"A good RA is someone who listens and works to build communities and recognizes that each person is different and should be valued for their differences," said Hollander.

DEBUNKING THE MYTH

Freshman roommates

BY SHAYNA MAKARON
SCENE REPORTER

When I first received my freshman roommate assignment and looked her up on Facebook, I knew there was something strange going on at the Washington University Office of Residential Life (ResLife). My new roommate's interests were listed as pickles and analyzing people, she listened to Regina Spektor and The Shins and she liked utopian literature. One brief look at her picture confirmed that she was a short Jewish girl with curly brown hair. So basically, I was rooming with myself. We were alike in almost every way.

Upon arriving at school, it only got stranger. Everyone was talking about the great conspiracy of happy roommates. Not only was my entire floor happy with their rooming situation, many of the pairs quickly became best friends and started joining political organizations and taking dance classes together.

It isn't even just the students who are impressed with the system. Mary Elliott, residential college director for Liggett/Koenig, said that she is "constantly amazed" at how well the system works out, which she estimates to be more than 80 percent of the time.

We've all heard the theories and the rumors that ResLife matches us up according to our high school résumés and applications, or even according to the more controversial considerations of race and religion. After being curious for months, I decided the only proper course of action was to go straight to the source.

As it turns out, the source is nothing more than a computer. Students fill out a questionnaire on the housing application that covers their preferences for sleeping habits, room usage, smoking, study conditions, room temperature and room type. The data is then entered into a program and the computer matches students up according to their preferences. Other considerations include whether students want to be substance-free, in a traditional or modern dorm and in a single, double or

triple room. As far as factors of compatibility, that is it.

Associate Director of Residential Life Cheryl Stephens explained that these are the truly essential factors in ensuring a successful rooming situation. She added that the school would not want to match people homogeneously.

"We stand by the fact that we think college is a time for students to meet people who are different than they are and have the opportunity to make connections with people from different cities, states and countries," said Stephens. "This is part of the Wash. U. experience."

She also mentioned that it is already plenty of work to place students based on the few questions they ask. Out of 1,342 freshman students who applied for housing this year, only 144 requested their roommates. Considering 1,200 students and an imperfect system, it is a substantial task for ResLife to manually correct what the computer misses.

Rhonda Kiely, assistant director of ResLife, added that most of the room changes are made during the summer based on problems with the actual dorm or room. Once students arrive, there are relatively few room changes—"definitely less than 10 to 20 percent," said Kiely.

So what about the strong similarities between roommates? As for the race and religion issue, Elliott has heard those rumors and has wondered about them herself, but knows they are not true.

"You have to look at the big picture," she said.

For each room in a dorm that has students of similar backgrounds, there is likely to be another room that is culturally diverse.

Katie Kotowski, RA of Koenig 1, offers her own opinion of why you may see students with similar interests rooming together.

"People who go to this school are all talented in many ways, and no matter how different two people may seem, they inevitably have something in common," she explained. "These pairs find what they have in common and bond over it. It is not that they are there because of those activities; you often have to search hard for them."



Junior Kyle Bukowski (center) sits with his residents on Koenig 3.

CLAIRE HENDERSON | STUDENT LIFE



Freshman roommates Joanna Perdomo and Jessica Goldkind hang out in their room Wednesday night. These two girls, randomly paired, quickly became close friends and bake cakes together for floor birthdays.

BRITTANY MEYER | STUDENT LIFE

R♥mance 101

Don't rush under the same roof

BY NICOLLE NEULIST
SCENE REPORTER

After you have been in a relationship with someone for a while, you may consider taking it to a more serious level. One thought that many couples begin to entertain during the course of college or graduate school is moving in together. Some couples think through it deeply before deciding to move in together; other couples do it on a whim. There's no hard and fast rule for

determining when a couple is ready to move in together, but every couple must do a lot of thinking to make sure that the benefits of living together would outweigh the potential pitfalls. It's a serious change to your lifestyle, and can put unfamiliar strains on your relationship if you're not ready.

Living together is a serious commitment. You consent to tearing down one last wall of privacy between you and your significant other. When you're living apart from your significant

other, you have your own place that you can always go back to. If you're annoyed with them for any reason or just want some time alone, you can just go home.

Before you move in with a significant other, know that you're giving that up. You will no longer have a place alone, a place to truly disappear from everyone—including your "other half."

You may think that this won't be a big deal or a big change since you already spend so much time at your significant other's apart-

ment, or vice versa. But this is a common misconception. If you're staying at their place but not living together, you're not squabbling over rent and bills. You're not divvying up who does the chores. You retain the right to ask your significant other to leave your apartment if you need some time alone if they are getting on your nerves.

When you move in, it's different. Instead of leaving all of the annoying minutiae of housekeeping to yourself or to platonic roommates,

those issues enter your relationship with your significant other. Sometimes it works out well if you are mature enough and compatible enough to deal with them smoothly. However, it may cause significant conflict, and you need to be ready to talk over the conflicts and decide how to resolve them.

If you are not good at talking out your conflicts and communicating openly, you are not ready to live together. Since you are sharing the same space, it becomes impossible to ignore issues

when things go wrong. If you are comfortable pointing out and discussing issues clearly when they arise, then you have the best shot of solving them before they start to erode peace in your now-shared home. If not, then they will snowball into more conflict and make success as a cohabiting couple unlikely. And if you've never had a conflict, that's probably a sign that it's too soon to move in together, too.

You should not move in with anyone until you know

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