

# STUDENT LIFE

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## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

### “It’s the best feeling in the world”

BY ANDREI BERMAN AND JOHANN QUA HANSEN  
SPORTS STAFF

Sixty minutes of perfection separated the Washington University men’s basketball team from the rest of the pack in Salem, Va. this weekend.

This allowed the Bears to bring home the University’s first-ever national championship in a men’s sport.

After trailing top-ranked Hope College 33-32 at the end of the first half in Friday night’s national semifinal, Wash. U. put together a string of three consecutive

brilliant halves of basketball, culminating in an emphatic 90-68 victory over defending national champion Amherst College to give the gritty Bears the 2007-2008 national title.

“It’s the best feeling in the world,” said freshman Caleb Knepper. “I can’t describe it.”

The second-half effort against Hope and the brilliant performance against Amherst less than 24 hours later will forever go down in the lore of Washington University athletics. The team, which many pollsters had written off four months ago when All-American point

guard Sean Wallis was lost for the season with a broken leg, ended the season in style, donning championship hats and T-shirts and ceremonially cutting down nets on the sport’s grandest stage as hundreds of students, families and supporters looked on, cheering wildly.

Wash. U. had shown flashes of brilliance all season, but nothing compared to what they pulled off this weekend. In the second frame against Hope, Wash. U. torched the Flying Dutchmen for an almost surreal 57 points. With National Player of the Year and Final Four MVP

Troy Ruths dominating the paint, and sophomore Aaron Thompson getting to the basket with ease, Hope was forced to foul.

Three Hope starters fouled out, and Wash. U. capitalized. The squad’s performance from the line was equally impressive.

The Red and Green hit 18 of 20 from the free throw line in the second half, leaving no doubt about the final margin of victory and moving onto the championship game with much-needed confidence against an imposing Amherst club, which boasted four trips to Salem over the past

five seasons.

Ruths finished the contest with an MVP-like state line of 30 points on 11-15 shooting and eight of nine from the line. Thompson tallied all 15 of his points in the second half, including a memorable stretch of 11 straight at the midway point.

“I got the first one in, and after that, it kind of just steamrolled,” said Thompson.

Junior Tyler Nading tallied 15 points on five of seven shooting despite battling foul trouble all afternoon and being limited to 21 minutes of action. Senior Danny O’Boyle

played spectacularly off the bench for the Bears, finishing with 12 points, including two crucial three-pointers.

“Throughout this whole tournament run, we had a lot of key players step up, whether it’s [Thompson], Danny or Tyler or me,” said Ruths.

#### Wash. U. 90, Amherst 68

Wash. U. dominated the Amherst Lord Jeffs from the opening tip to the final buzzer, never trailing the defending champions.

The Bears played with a  
See BASKETBALL, page 8

## Three groups vie for block funding in SU elections

BY BEN SALES  
NEWS EDITOR

Seeking greater flexibility in their programming abilities or the ability to provide better services to the student body, three groups are appealing for block funding in the Student Union elections on March 26 and 27.

The Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Hotline (S.A.R.A.H.) and the Washington University campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity are each applying for more programming funds for their respective groups, and a group of Student Union (SU) senators are appealing

for money to improve athletic facilities on campus.

The SU initiative is one of the first block funding appeals presented on behalf of a large student project instead of a specific student group. If passed, the funds would go toward eliminating the cardio fee of \$45 and im-

proving equipment in campus weight rooms.

“It seemed ironic that Wash. U. was nickel and dime-ing us to use a weight facility that wasn’t necessarily up to par with [those of] fellow institutions,” said junior Matt Goldstein, the SU senator who has been lead-

ing the initiative. “The school stresses a healthy lifestyle, so what’s more appropriate than eliminating the cardio fee and helping all students to use the cardio?”

Goldstein says, however, that the most important aspect of the initiative is that it will encourage students to

take actions on campus issues that they consider important.

“If this gets voted up, this will show that not only can Student Union make an impact, but that students can be proactive in changing

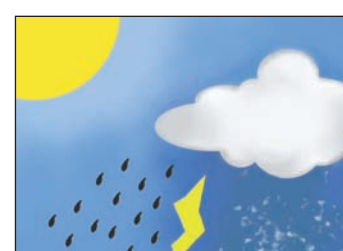
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### Not just the ‘El Niño’ effect...



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# University looks to revamp Arts & Sciences curriculum

BY ELIZA ADELSON  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The College of Arts & Sciences presented a report on its 10-year strategic plan to the Board of Trustees as part of Chancellor Mark Wrighton's "Plan for Excellence."

The plan, announced by Wrighton in 2006, is a 10-year strategic initiative involving every school at the University.

Each of the seven schools is formulating a strategic plan with the help of faculty and alumni.

In addition to this program, a separate infrastructure initiative will take place and focus on improving campus spaces like dorms and classrooms.

In Arts & Sciences, which includes an undergraduate

program, graduate program and night school, the plan focuses on improving graduate education, undergraduate opportunities, leadership and service and faculty.

Most input from the plan came from the Arts & Sciences National Council, the Academic Planning Committee, the chairs and directors of the University and other members of the faculty.

The national council is mostly composed of alumni that act as advisors to deans.

"The national council has the scope of graduates, and they can really provide a bigger picture view," said Shelley Milligan, assistant dean of Arts & Sciences.

The academic planning committee is made up of 10 faculty members who work

with Jim McLeod, dean of Arts & Sciences, on retreats throughout the year.

For student input, the plan was brought before the Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Council; the president of the Student Council was present at the meetings of the National Council.

Some students feel as though the curriculum is the biggest area of concern for the University.

"If I could change the curriculum, I would try and make the required core curriculum a little more humanities based," said freshman Allison Block. "I would also rearrange the cluster system because I think it's tedious. I feel like it's so constricting like in its rules that it negates its purpose."

In 1995, a similar overhaul

occurred, according to Milligan.

"The last strategic plan was a great success, University wide. On the undergraduate side, this is where we saw a huge explosion in the number of applications to the school and the ability to be more competitive, and the quality of students has skyrocketed," said Milligan. "We'd like to turn more attention and focus to the graduate program the way we did last time—some things involve building endowment, but also being able to recruit the best students for graduate degrees."

The implementation of the Plan for Excellence does not include drastic changes to the curriculum but instead focuses on an overall review of the academics in general.

The faculty facet of the plan focuses on bringing the number of tenured faculty from 375 to 425. With this change the University hopes it will make itself more competitive with its peer institutions.

Among peer institutions, Northwestern University has 395 tenured professors and Johns Hopkins University has 269 tenured professors.

In terms of campus life, the University's main goal is to "create a unified college," including a more developed liberal arts core.

"I wish I could have had a say in the development of the curriculum," said freshman Megan Goldsmith. "I would want to participate more in the form of surveys, meetings and other things like that."



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the stage with Sen. Barack Obama before the start of the Democratic Presidential Debate at Cleveland State University on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008. This year's race for the Democratic Presidential nomination has gone on longer than any in recent memory.

## News analysis: As primaries continue, interest wanes

BY MICHELLE STEIN  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Ever since Feb. 5, something has been missing from the Washington University campus. No longer do students overhear political conversations as they wait in line at Bear's Den, nor do they get trapped by the political groups tabling as they walk through Mallinckrodt.

This raises the question: Have primary politics disappeared from Washington University?

Several months ago, students were gathering at Democratic Presidential candidate and Illinois Senator Barack Obama's headquarters in St. Louis to watch the Democratic debates.

Now, when students were asked randomly, not if they listened to, but if they were aware that Obama made an important speech on March 18, none answered yes.

Missouri is a swing state for national elections, and considering it has a tendency to pick the winner in the general elections, Missouri can be important. Therefore, it was not surprising how much campaigning and politics surrounded the early parts of February, especially considering this campaign cycle's youth activism.

In a normal election year, both parties' candidates are chosen on Super Tuesday or soon after.

This year, the primary cycle just keeps going as neither Democratic candidate has yet reached the necessary number of delegates to secure the nomination.

For some students, there is just no point in paying attention anymore.

"I was relatively interested in the race," said sophomore Natacha Lam. "I did some research on the candidates on my own and watched the actual Super Tuesday on TV."

After Super Tuesday, however, Lam, like many others, just lost interest.

"There's nothing I can do about it," she said. "I did my civic duty by voting and after that I'll wait until the general [election]."

At this point, the primaries are just not affecting the average University student anymore. For some, this primary cycle has been extremely disappointing.

Student Union Vice President Brittany Perez is from Florida. Due to Florida's attempt to move up its Democratic primary without consent of the National Democratic Party, the state's delegates, and therefore votes, were stripped.

"I'm from Florida," said Perez, "so I paid attention to the fact that my vote was taken away."

Perez said she was excited about the possibility of Florida redoing its primary but was disappointed when the

opportunity did not come about like she hoped.

Students wait for a chance to feel like they make a difference again, whether here or in their home state.

Meanwhile, it seems to students that the primaries are going on without really causing anything to change.

"I have been paying attention but I don't feel it's as necessary since I have a Republican view and my candidate is pretty much picked already," said sophomore Kelly Rocheleau. "All of the name calling between Hillary and Obama I just don't really pay attention to."

The stalemate, then, has just as much impact as the length of the campaign.

"If it were shorter it'd be easier to follow, but I don't really think it's that big an issue it's spread out," said Rocheleau.

For some, it all comes down to the fact that those at Washington University are just students. Junior Neha Tibrewala said that she was working so hard on her extracurricular activities that she did not really have time to watch the news.

"I've been paying enough attention to know McCain is the Republican nominee and the Democrats are between Obama and Hillary," she said. "I have CNN on my homepage so every time I use the Internet I have to look at the headlines."

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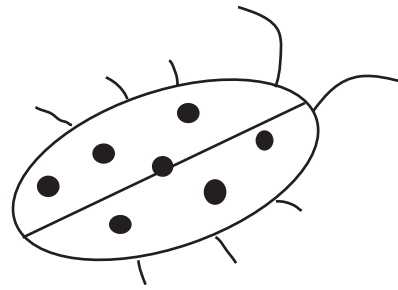


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# WU alum reaches the stars, working on space stations

BY SCOTT FABRICANT  
STAFF REPORTER

Washington University alumnus and St. Louis native Robert Behnken is out of this world, literally. Behnken has completed a mission to install new modules on the International Space Station (ISS).

The mission has installed half of the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency's module Kibo, the first Japanese component on the ISS. The mission has also installed the Canadian-made Special Purpose Dexterous Manipulator, or 'Dextre', which will be used for performing repairs on the outside of the station. Finally, the mission successfully tested the process of repairing the shuttle's heat-resistant tiles from outside the orbiter.

The shuttle will return to Earth Monday night.

Behnken, 37, graduated from Washington University in 1992 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and physics. He then went on to the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) for his master's degree and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

Behnken was an Air Force ROTC student at the University, and after receiving his Ph.D. from Caltech he served in the U.S. Air Force. He became a flight test engineer for new aircraft and was the lead flight test engineer for the Raptor 4004.

NASA appointed him mission specialist in July of 2000. This is his first shuttle flight.

Behnken was unavailable

for comment because he is currently in orbit.

Professor Salvatore Sutera was the chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the time, and an advisor to Behnken. He remembers Behnken as a hard-working student who excelled in Sutera's classes.

"He was very bright and energetic," said Sutera. "Not the type of student who needed help. He was very self-motivated."

Behnken had originally planned to stay at the University for graduate studies, working under Sutera. He decided at the last minute to attend Caltech, Sutera's alma mater. Because the two had not kept in touch after graduation, Sutera did not know about Behnken's selection for NASA service until he read the announcement.

"I knew he had been an ROTC here, so his continuation in the Air Force as a pilot was not too surprising, but the fact that he was accepted to the astronaut program was quite a shock, and it gave me feelings of great pride," said Sutera. "I follow the space program, but this is the first time someone I know personally is flying up in the shuttle."

Sutera hopes Behnken will return to the University upon his safe landing, as a social call or perhaps to speak to the student body.

"If we have an opportunity to congratulate him, I hope we can bring him back to campus and have a little celebration," said Sutera.



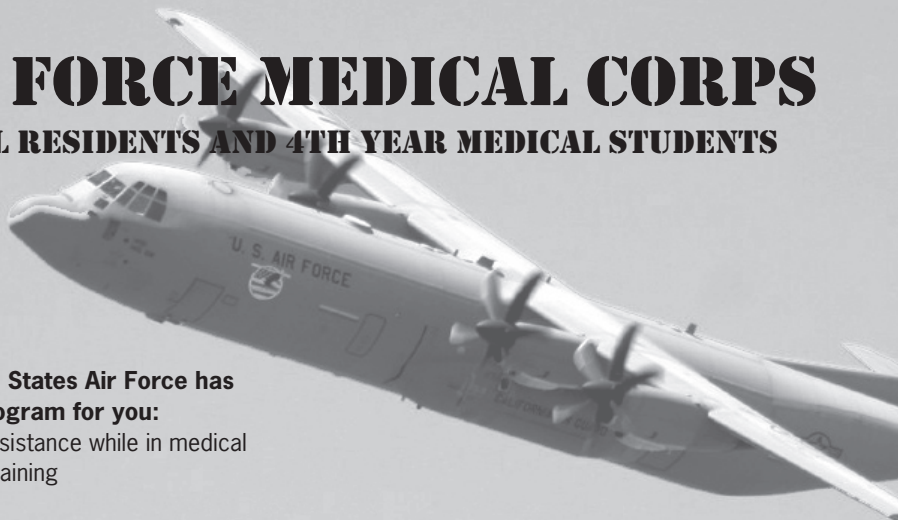
COURTESY OF NASA

Washington University alumnus Robert Behnken is currently completing a mission to work on the International Space Station. Behnken, a University graduate in 1992, is scheduled to return to Earth Monday night.

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## TUG OF WAR(HOL)



EVAN WISKUP | STUDENT LIFE

Students in the School of Art compete in a tug of war against members of the School of Art faculty and staff Friday afternoon outside of Bixby Hall. The event was not only a physical competition, but was also a performative artwork orchestrated by second year MFA candidate Stephen Quick. The students successfully outpulled the opposing members of the faculty and staff.

## FUNDING ❖ FROM PAGE 1

their campus for the positive," he said. "This is a new way to improve the facilities, and a chance for the student body to improve campus. [It] opens up the possibility for the improvement of other issues."

Habitat and S.A.R.A.H. are taking the more traditional route to block funding by appealing for funds for a specific program within the framework of their organized student groups. Election commissioner Mark Dudley said, however, that regardless of the appeals' purposes, placing block funding on the ballot is a good way for groups to increase their name recognition.

"We have \$2.1 million and it's definitely available for groups," said Dudley, a sophomore. "It's great for groups to have access to the people, to get their cause out there and have it known."

But Dudley added that the block funding vote also carries benefits for the voters.

"It's important for the student body to decide as themselves how their money is going to be spent," he said. "Block funding is a way for students to express their concerns over how their money is going to be spent."

S.A.R.A.H. has functioned as an anonymous hotline for students addressing sexual assault until this past year. The group is appealing for block funding in order to expand its programming range into a set of training sessions, called S.A.R.A.H. Safe, for faculty and students.

"With these things changing our organization, block funding would give us more flexibility with our programming, helping us to be more a part of the campus," said junior Kavya Naini, S.A.R.A.H.'s treasurer. "It will do a lot for the student body and a lot for

what we can do for the student body."

In addition, Naini said that block funding would help to alleviate the difficulties that S.A.R.A.H. faces as an anonymous organization.

"In the past we've had trouble with appeals or fundraising," she said. "Because we've grown so much and because we've partnered with so many organizations, this can help in the future."

Habitat for Humanity will be appealing for a renewal of its block funding, which the group first requested two years ago.

"Since we've had block funding, we've had room to

grow," said sophomore Sumit Agarwal, president of Habitat. "You're able to add events at the spur of a moment. One of the problems you see with the [SU Treasury appeals] system is that in the spring is that they run out of money really quickly."

Among other projects, Habitat will use the funds to finance Wash. U. Build Challenge, a daylong event during which teams of students will compete to build the most creative cardboard house. Agarwal likened the event to Dance Marathon and Relay for Life in its ability to raise funds and awareness of Habitat's goals.

"If [students] see that we're doing stuff on campus, that we have a presence, it can really help," said Agarwal. "If they see potential for success in this event, they'll give us block funding."

Agarwal added that Habitat's fundraising efforts are not limited to the block funding campaign, though most of their efforts help the St. Louis Habitat Chapter.

"We've done corporate funding. We had a letter writing campaign. Most of the funding goes to our affiliate," he said. "Block funding by no means stops our fundraising efforts."



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# FORUM

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We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Jeff Nelson for SU VP of Administration

In many respects, this Student Union executive election has been a very disappointing one.

The candidates for four of the major officer positions (president, vice president of programming, vice president of public relations and vice president of finance) are officially running unopposed.

The only contested position, vice president of administration, is featuring two of the best Student Union candidates we can remember in recent memory—Jeff Nelson and Colin Towery.

Our most striking impressions when interviewing both Nelson and Towery were the compelling visions they laid out for Student Union.

Jeff Nelson has a plan

for involving more students by creating "cabinets" which are devoted to one important issue and staffed by students from outside Student Union. He has a plan for making the Student Union Senate more relevant to students by cutting the number of seats and making elections more competitive. He has a plan for increasing the role councils play in student affairs. And he has a plan for holding Student Union members accountable by keeping track of their attendance at meetings and rating their effectiveness as representatives of the student body.

We were also impressed with Towery's proposals, which display a very keen understanding for the inner workings of Student Union. He effectively defined the

nebulous title of vice president of administration and in this past year has shown initiative in his work heading the student committee on dining in the Danforth University Center and the Wohl Center.

While we are endorsing Nelson, we want to express our sincere hope that Towery remains involved in Student Union and works to implement the goals he presented to us, especially those in dining, school spirit and involving students in SU.

In the end, we believe that students will benefit most from the plans that Jeff Nelson has formulated. His plans were the most concrete that we heard and he demonstrates the attitude that we want to see in Student Union. We believe

that Nelson will breathe life into Student Union—the kind of life that inspires activity among senators, other campus leaders and Student Union executives.

We believe that Nelson will influence a wide variety of campus activities and groups. His enthusiasm and concrete plans, while they may not come to their total potential fruition, are the same kind of enthusiasm we wish was everywhere in SU.

As for unopposed candidates Brittany Perez, Grant Barbosa, Neha Tibrewala and Yewande Alimi, who are running for president, VP of programming, VP of public relations and VP of finance, respectively, we are withholding our endorsement.

And so, since there is no choice in these elections in any meaningful sense,

we believe that it would be pointless to provide an endorsement of these candidates.

This is not to say that any of these candidates are unqualified, but we believe that since all four are running unopposed, the election itself is merely a formality for them. While it is not the fault of these candidates that they are running in unopposed elections, we believe that it is unhealthy for Student Union when this occurs.

We find it regrettable that most of these elections are uncontested as it illustrates a lack of involvement and interest by the student body.

As we have mentioned in previous staff editorials, unopposed elections prevent a more diverse selection of options from making it into

the public forum. This is a disservice to the student body and we can only hope that future elections will see greater involvement from Washington University students.

At any rate, every student who plans on voting in the Student Union executive elections should read the candidates' statements carefully and pick the candidates who they believe will best serve the student body.

We think Jeff Nelson has many ideas that could produce tangible results, and we hope that, if he should win the election, he steers Student Union in the direction he outlined to us.

Elections will take place this Wednesday and Thursday and students can vote by signing onto their Web-STAC account.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Yes to Habitat for Humanity, S.A.R.A.H. and AC funding

This Wednesday and Thursday, students will also vote to either approve or deny three groups block funding: Habitat for Humanity, Sexual Assault and Rape Action Hotline (S.A.R.A.H.) and the Athletic Complex funding initiative. We endorse each of them.

Habitat for Humanity is asking for a renewal of the block funding they got two years ago. This year they request almost 50 percent less money than they did two years ago—their request now is for \$0.99 per student out of the Student Activities Fee. The smaller request is due to improved fund-raising in addition to increased corporate sponsorship for events. These improvements in procuring funds indicate that Habitat is making an effort to reduce the financial burden on the student body while still operating at full capacity.

A large portion of the block funding is, and if passed will be, used to fund advocacy and education programs for the St. Louis community. This goes beyond the traditionally-conceived

Habitat for Humanity function and expands its reach further into the community.

Block funding, if renewed, will also allow the organization to be more flexible in planning events by giving them a reserve of money from which they can draw for on-the-fly programming.

We also endorse Habitat because of their intention to involve more student groups in their activities, bringing other campus groups to build houses on the weekends and co-programming.

Habitat, with this intention, displays a concern for the entire campus community and not just their individual function. We also encourage Habitat's role as a charitable campus group. As a localized part of a larger institution, it fills a much-needed niche on campus.

Vote yes for Habitat for Humanity block funding this Wednesday and Thursday.

We also endorse block funding for S.A.R.A.H. Members of the organization say the group is changing and block funding will support these changes. Though with or without block funding

they will continue to operate their 24-hour hotline, with block funding they will be able to implement advancements in programming and technology, especially in campus outreach.

They plan to implement a program called S.A.R.A.H. Safe, in which they reach out to and educate members of the Washington University community, including RAs and faculty members, about sexual assault and rape.

S.A.R.A.H. deserves block funding because it provides an important service to the Washington University student body. The group's main appeal for block funding is this: efficiency. Such an important campus group can operate without block funding—but they shouldn't have to, and with funding they will be able to do so much more.

Vote yes for S.A.R.A.H. block funding this Wednesday and Thursday.

Lastly, we endorse the student initiative to provide funding for a reworked weight room and the elimination of the fee for the cardio rooms in the Athletic Complex and the fitness cen-

ter on the South 40. Senator Eric Gradel was right when he told *Student Life* February 1, "The University does not place a big enough emphasis on its fitness facilities."

Though the proposal will cost \$240,000 out of the \$2.1 million student activities fund, the proposal, headed by junior and Student Union Senator Matt Goldstein, is a crucial step if we at Wash. U. want to have athletic facilities rivaling those at competing universities.

As evidenced by the number of students who utilize the weight room, the cardio center and the South 40 fitness center, fitness is a major value for students at the University. Student Life, Student Union and the rest of campus have advocated such an initiative for a few years. It is worth the commitment and the money.

Vote yes for Athletic Complex initiative block funding this Wednesday and Thursday.

Voting will be on Web-STAC March 26 and 27, Wednesday and Thursday of the upcoming week. We encourage all students to make their opinions count.

# Torture debate: go beyond semantics

BY BILL HOFFMAN  
STAFF COLUMNIST

About a month ago, the conservative New York Times columnist Bill Kristol confessed to Jon Stewart that he is "ambivalent on torture." It's tempting to condemn him for this (though he should be commended for his honest language, avoiding Orwellian euphemisms like "enhanced interrogation techniques"). However, I fear that this sentiment is widely shared among Americans. By and large, these people aren't sadists. Most either believe that waterboarding simply isn't torture or that, even if it is, saving American lives from evil terrorist attacks justifies the technique. I hope I can convince these people just how wrong they are.

Waterboarding, the most controversial of the so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" employed by the Bush administration, is often called "simulated drowning." This is misleading, however. It is "simulated" in the sense that the victim will not actually "drown" (read: "die"). The goal of waterboarding is not to kill but to cause suffering, and the suffering induced by waterboarding is not simulated at all. I've never experienced the feeling of drowning, but I suspect that it is agonizing. If it weren't, why would the government expect that it would produce information from suspected terrorists? Torture is thought to be so effective precisely because it is so unbearable. If waterboarding merely makes a person "uncomfortable," as Derooy Murdock of the *National Review* has claimed, it is absurd to think that it would force a fanatical terrorist who does not fear death to betray his or her cause.

Some might say that even if waterboarding is torture, it has happened so rarely that it should not be a major concern. After all, CIA Director Michael Hayden has claimed that the government has only used waterboarding on three prisoners. If we assume Hayden is telling the truth, this objection has some merit. It is indeed a mistake to focus exclusively on waterboarding, because the U.S. has been complicit in many other forms of torture. When former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approved a memorandum authorizing the forced standing of detainees, he glibly declared, "I stand for eight to 10 hours a day. Why is standing limited to four hours?" Perhaps it is because, in the words of torture expert Darius Rejali,

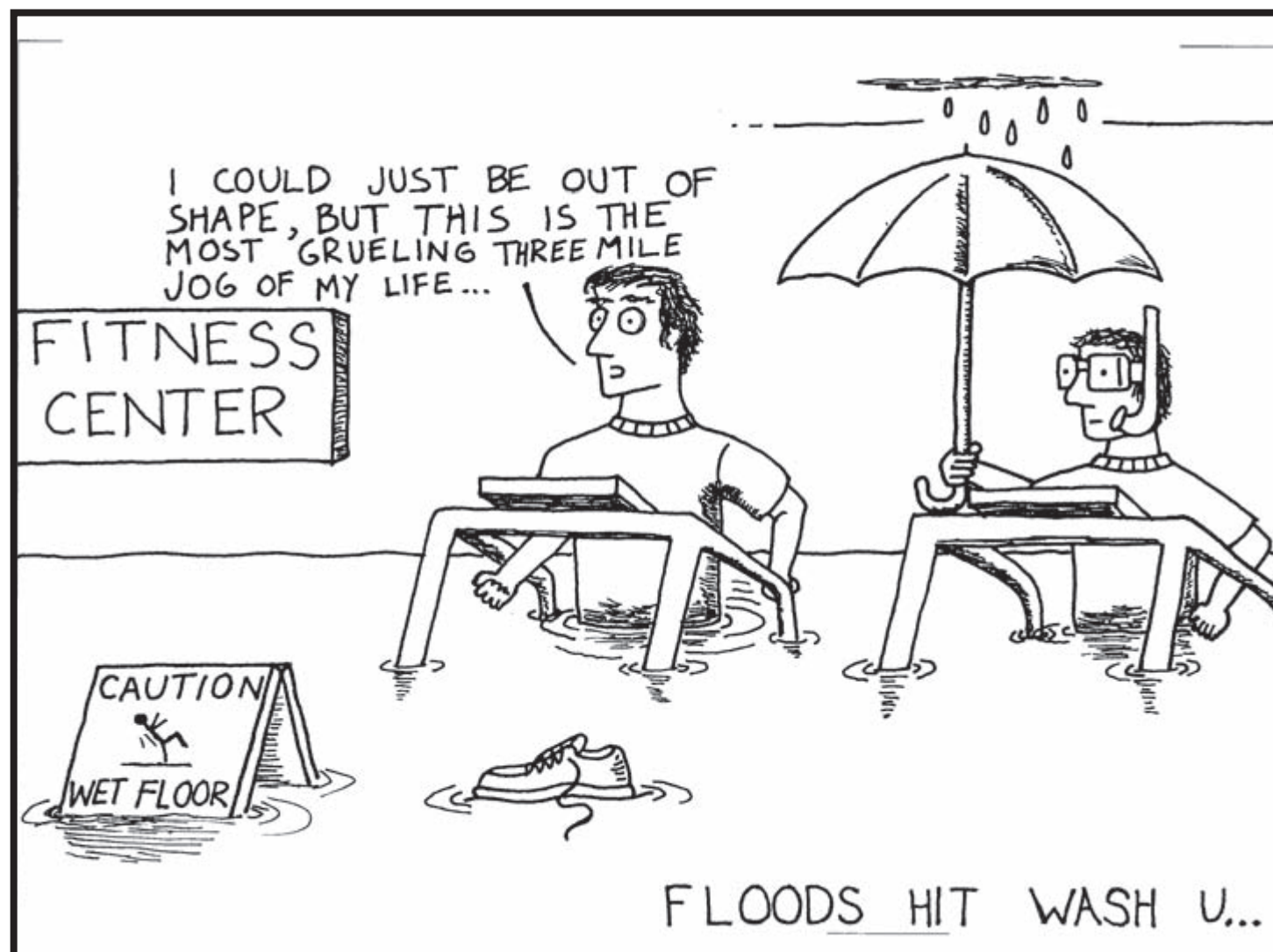
"forced standing causes the ankles and feet to swell to twice their size within 24 hours. Moving becomes agonizing and large blisters develop. The heart rate increases, and some people faint. The kidneys eventually shut down." Many are not even aware that U.S. personnel have tortured some detainees to death. I know of three: Habibullah and Dilawar at Bagram prison in Afghanistan and Manadel al-Jamadi at Abu Ghraib. This does not even take into account the "extraordinary rendition" of suspected terrorists to other countries, where they are tortured on our behalf.

Even when faced with this horrifying information, some might still insist that the war on terror demands that we torture. Without the information procured by torture, the argument goes, the U.S. is unacceptably vulnerable to terrorist attacks. The logic of this argument culminates in the "ticking time bomb" thought experiment often cited as a justification for torture. In this scenario, the authorities have captured a terrorist who has planted a bomb in a populated area. They somehow know that the explosion is imminent and that the suspect knows the bomb's location (though for some reason, this knowledge will not help them find the bomb itself). The only option, then, is to torture the suspect. This situation, however, is sheer fantasy. It is not merely unlikely, but logically incoherent. Any attack which is imminent enough to justify the torture in the first place cannot be stopped by torture. Torture apologists take for granted that the torture will force the prisoner to confess, that the prisoner will not lie and that the information, if true, will allow the authorities to act quickly enough to prevent disaster. This type of scenario may occur weekly on episodes of "24," but I have never heard anyone produce an example of it occurring in the real world.

I don't believe that torture is an effective way to stop terrorism, but that's almost beside the point. It's depressing that our public debate over torture is now largely about the outcome of a consequentialist calculus. During World War II, America distributed posters which declared that torture was "the method of the enemy." That we could not do the same today is a shocking and tragic state of affairs.

Bill is a senior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at william.howard.hoffman.iii@gmail.com.

## IAN ROSS | EDITORIAL CARTOON





# 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**

## 'Super Smash Bros. Brawl' smashes the competition

BY BRIAN STITT  
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

A review of the Nintendo Wii's newest blockbuster game "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" seems as unnecessary as pants on a poodle. The "Smash Bros." series is immensely popular with hardcore and casual gamers alike, as evidenced by the fact that "Brawl" sold 1.4 million copies in its first week. If you own a Wii, you probably already own this game. But if you are among the thousands of Wii-less wonders out there, you might wonder if "Brawl" is enough of an improvement on "Melee" to necessitate you making friends with the smelly kid on your floor who has a Wii.

"Smash Bros." has always consisted of two styles of game play: the multiplayer mode, which allows gamers a unique fighting experience beating on their friends while each represents a classic Nintendo character; and the single-player mode, which everyone ignores after all the different characters have been unlocked. "Brawl" doesn't stray from the well-

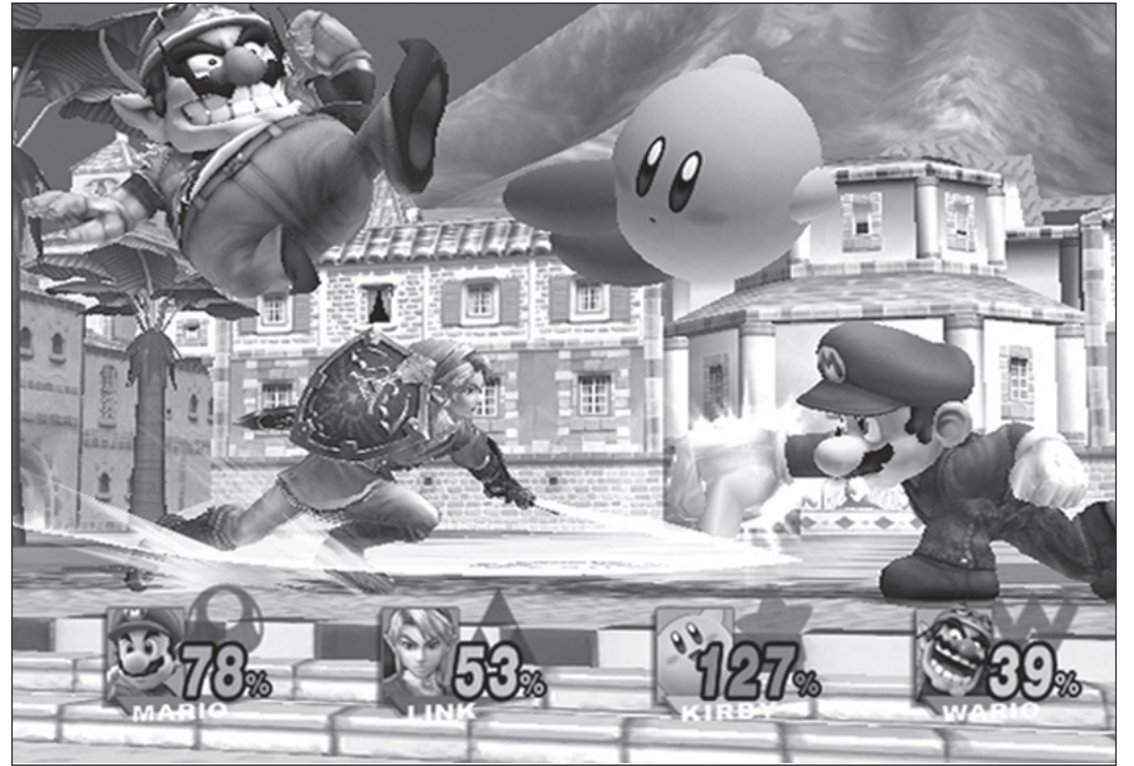
defined course too much. The single-player mode features a fancy-pants plot and some well-animated cut scenes, but the multiplayer mode stays pretty much the same, barring new items and online-play options. The real interest is in the new playable characters (there are 35), including Solid Snake, Pit from Kid Icarus and Sonic the Hedgehog. The upgrade in number of characters, as well as the 41 selectable stages, is the main draw to the "Brawl."

The game play is essentially the same as that of "Melee"; each character features a variety of different attacks, but all are controlled in the same basic manner. Instead of having the standard fighting-game life bar, players try to knock opponents off the screen. The more damage a character takes, the further he flies with each hit. The most notable difference in game play is the inclusion of Final Smash moves activated by a new item called a Smash Ball. These allows characters to use a very powerful attack after repeatedly striking the floating Smash Ball. The animations are

a step beyond that of "Melee," but truly there is little significant difference.

The one somewhat surprising aspect of "Brawl" is that it does not utilize the Wii's capability for motion sensing. Players can flip the Wii remote on its side, play with a nunchuk or use a Game Cube controller, but no amount of flailing, swinging or stabbing makes your character do anything differently than just tapping the buttons does. This seems like a missed opportunity to capitalize on the system's technology, and yet I fear a room full of college students wildly waving their controllers might lead to an actual brawl.

In all, "Brawl" is not much of a step forward for the series, but at the same time it steadfastly maintains what has made these games so universally popular. It features game play simple enough to allow plenty of button mashing, with enough complexity to hook those prone to video game addiction. "Brawl" is a whole lot of fun and worth the time spent with even the smelliest of floormates.



Mario brutalizes Wario and Jigglypuff while Link strikes back. "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" upgrades the number of characters and stages, and adds a co-op capability this time around.

## The iPod review

BY PERCY OLSEN  
CADENZA REPORTER

In an effort to further alienate Cadenza from the student body, we have decided to not just judge students' tastes by mocking the records they may listen to, but by actually reviewing the music they do listen to.

In today's modern world, a well-managed iPod playlist can be almost as much of an artistic expression as music itself. We'll try to remain understanding (remember there is no such thing as a guilty pleasure), and yet we will not fear to call people out for having terrible taste in music.

Be warned, keep your iPod locked up tight in case a Cadenza reporter is snooping around. If you actually would like for us to deride your stultifying cultural ignorance or to delight in your stellar musical taste, we suggest making very good friends with a Cadenza reporter and surreptitiously leaving your iPod in his or her room. Or contact us at cadenza@studlife.com. Whichever is easier.

The Groove chooses to express itself in many ways. People will try to force their personal preferences upon you, but beware their Grooves. It's your sacred Groove, not theirs. The Groove is what tears our

bridges down and sends us on our own winding paths. You must find your own.

Look no further than Dardick's fourth floor to find CJ Carey's Groove, a versatile music library that takes us beyond today's ordinary sounds. Granted, at times it will shock you with its brutal honesty (an Avril Lavigne song produced after 2004? Really?), but it completely makes up for that in the sheer variety it has to offer.

It's quite a gold mine; when I stare at CJ's MP3 player, I'm tempted to keep it. Forever. It makes me want to throw a party; I could just put this baby on "Shuffle," sit back and watch everyone else fall over as they try dancing to Kanye's "Stronger" after having to come up with the appropriate dance for the soundtrack to "Aladdin."

Beyond this (ultimately) sad fantasy of mine, there's something more to take away from CJ's music. When you listen to it, you start to think differently. There's a nice mix of the modern and the past; there's the obligatory Sugar Ray canon ("Someday"), but there's also a Pink Panther ska cover that's basically awesome. There are conflicting timelines in the library, and these bring out unexpected feelings, from longing for those old days when "ev-

eryone was walking on sunshine" to relief that our nation, allegedly, has gotten over The Spice Girls.

There are a hair too many Yellowcard songs, but at least they're all from mixes, so the songs don't carry the bad karma of actually having supported the band. Although a quick look at the "Top Played" list would put Relient K up there, CJ doesn't have a favorite band or genre. He's just as likely to listen to The Gorillaz as he is to listen to a potato sing "His Cheeseburger" in "VeggieTales." When you hear that spud yell out for his "yummy" friend, it's hard not to see CJ's Groove as the lost cheeseburger, a beloved set of tunes that may have been slightly processed, but were ultimately beloved and are now sorely missing from our common music pool.

### CJ Carey's Groove

Rating: 4.5 earbuds out of 5

Top played artists: Relient K, Distpatch, Hot Hot Heat, Kanye West, Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Muse, Gorillaz, Suckerpunch

Coolest Song: Nicotine—"Hit Me Baby One More Time!" Cover of Britney Spears

## Lost the auction on Kanye tickets? Well, this music is free!

BY NADIA SOBEHART  
CADENZA REPORTER

Let's admit it: there's nothing fun to do on an early Friday evening. Luckily, the Mildred Kemper Art Museum has a melodious solution to our classic dilemma: free food and music. Featuring artists from different musical backgrounds, the Kemper concert series has been running for several weeks. It's not too late—you can still see great local acts play. There's no better way to start your weekend than with some good tunes and an artistic atmosphere. The time and date: Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information go to [kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu](http://kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu).

Great acts you can still enjoy:

- 3/28** Learn, Artist!  
For fans of: improvisation, funky acid-jazz
- 4/4** psychotronics  
For fans of: rock with a jazzy feel
- 4/11** Brotha' D. & The Woo-Daddies  
For fans of: swing, rock, jazz, blues, good covers
- 4/18** Final Veil  
For fans of: live belly dancing, experimental electronic music with a heavy Middle-Eastern influence

### ALBUM REVIEW

## The City Life: 'Gone is the World'

BY STEVE HARDY  
CADENZA REPORTER

Several tracks off The City Life's "Gone is the World" deserve to be on your party mix. The throbbing bass, staccato guitar and upbeat tempo of "White Elephant," "Voting With Your Feet" and "Fun" will put your guests in a dancing mood, but when the party's over, no one will remember the songs.

Tommy Delbert's angular, syncopated guitar work is instantly reminiscent of Franz Ferdinand. Unfortunately, while Franz's catchy hooks worm their way into your mind and latch on, The City Life's just kind of pass by. Similarly, Aaron Souvinette's bass lines are just satisfactory, which is especially noticeable because they are given so much room in the mixing. While he does make some reaches, the four-beat stomps and repeated notes merely hang with the rest of the music rather than propel

it forward.

Leo DeJesus is a passable vocalist, singing in a yowl akin to Sam Endicott's (if anyone remembers him from The Bravery). However, as a lyricist, DeJesus is stuck in about seventh grade, preferring easy, silly rhymes and platitudes to thoughtful or even original lyrics. Here is a gem from "New Best is Next Best": "The couch cush-in is my new best friend/ He introduced me to his best friend/ He said 'Hey meet Mr. Television/ but he's just a friend of a friend/ But the TV guy he's got good ideas/ so I'll sit right here and drink this beer."

On "We Deal," the band hands over the microphone to keyboardist Lucy Gossett with tragic results. With little more than surprisingly depressed lyrics, harmonica and a piano ostinato, she stretches four and a half minutes to about an eternity.

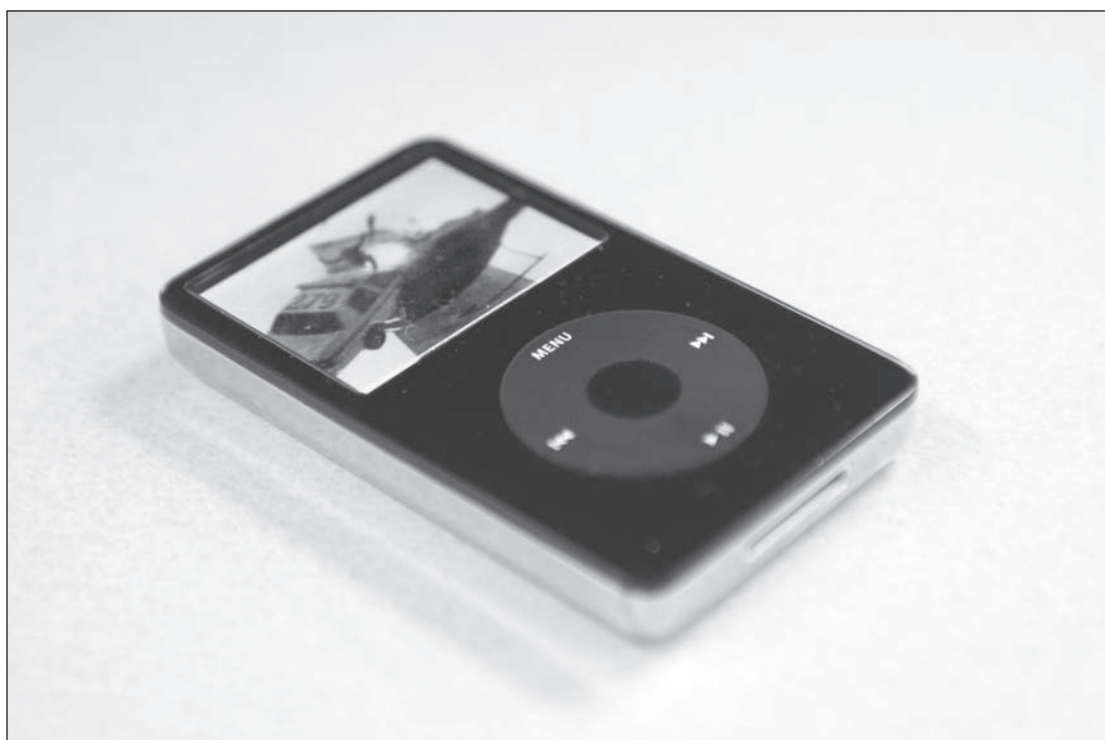
However, a few tracks from "Gone is the World" certainly wouldn't be out of place in your party shuffle.

They are lively enough to get some toes tapping, but certainly won't distract from conversation. Luckily, the band is young. In the past year they've been honing their chops at bars, college battles of the bands and at least one Relay for Life in and around their hometown, New Orleans. As a bar band, The City Life is great, but they'll need to find a way to distinguish themselves both lyrically and sonically from all the other indie dance-rock bands if they want to make the jump to the national stage.

The City Life  
*Gone is the World*

Rating: ★★☆☆☆  
Sounds Like: Franz Ferdinand, The Bravery, The Killers

Tracks to download: "White Elephant," "Voting With Your Feet"



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE



# SCENE

## What's up with St. Louis weather?

BY SHAYNA MAKARON  
SCENE REPORTER

We've all been there: shuffling around in rain boots all day when not a drop hits the

ground, peeling off layers as the temperature jumps 30 degrees in three hours or walking back from campus in shorts and a T-shirt—when it's snowing.

For those of us who aren't from the Midwest, the move

to St. Louis required quite a bit of adjustment—not to accents or overfriendly people but instead to a climate with a bad case of bipolar disorder.

An old St. Louis saying goes, "If you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes." There couldn't be more truth to the expression.

But what exactly is it that makes St. Louis weather so unpredictable, so extreme, so frustrating as to inspire the creation of the Web site [stlouisweathersucks.com](http://stlouisweathersucks.com)? (Yes, it exists. And they sell T-shirts.)

Although most people have something to complain about regarding the weather here, few have any explanation as to why the weather is so volatile. It turns out that we're in a perfect location

for highly variable weather for several reasons. Due to our positioning in the Midwest, winds in St. Louis come primarily from the West, but cold gusts from Canada and heat waves from the Gulf of Mexico also find their way to our little city. These competing winds can cause rapid temperature changes—or worse. When the winds arrive from different locales at the same time, the clash causes some of the severe conditions that we are so familiar with, like thunderstorms, tornadoes and flash floods.

To make matters worse, St. Louis has no advantageously located mountain ranges or lakes to buffer extreme temperature shifts.

We pessimists may not realize, however, that there have been many devastating

Midwest storms that have simply skipped right over the St. Louis area. Weather reports show that storms heading directly our way often divide into halves that move either north or south, rejoining once the storm passes into Illinois and Indiana. Although meteorologists lack a definite explanation, there is one school of thought that attributes the phenomenon to our local pride and joy: the Arch. As far-fetched as it may seem, the massive monument has been posited as a source of weather shift.


As an article on [failed-success.com](http://failed-success.com) so dramatically puts it, "During the day this national monument stands as the gateway to the west, but after hours this man-made marvel turns into one of the most powerful

weather-controlling devices ever conceived."

The so-called "arch effect" suggests that the stainless steel of the structure produces ions that cause an electrically-charged field that is able to drive storms away. Sometimes, however, the system reverses, and the arch actually pulls in unexpected storms. That part is the St. Louis we all know and hate.

It's up to you, as intelligent Wash. U. students, whether or not you want to buy into a theory posted at a source called "Failed Success," but maybe an absurd explanation is better than no explanation at all. The only advice I can give you is to pack a suitcase when you leave your dorm in the morning. You've got to be ready for anything.

### Today in St. Louis



High: 75 Low: 15  
Wind: 0-35 MPH

### St. Louis: Hot and (OLD) this past month

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2008  
HIGH 79



MONDAY MARCH 3RD, 2008  
LOW 17  
([google.com](http://google.com))



FRIDAY MARCH 21, 2008  
5:00pm 70 degrees



SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008  
1:00am 28 degrees  
([weather.com](http://weather.com))



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## Swimming and diving places thirteenth in NCAA championships

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington University men's swimming and diving team placed 13th at the Division III NCAA Championships this past weekend, held at Miami University in Ohio.

The top 20 finish is the sixth straight for Bears, all under Head Coach Brad Shively.

Sophomore Alex Beyer

garnered All-American honors with a ninth place showing in the 500-yard freestyle and a 15th place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle. Classmate Brian Kushner finished 12th in the 500-freestyle while freshman Michael Flanagan placed fifth in the 200-yard butterfly.

Junior Kevin Leckey took 16th in the 50-yard freestyle, classmate Perry Bullock grabbed 12th in

the 400-yard IM and Beyer received All-American honors again for placing 11th in the 400 IM. He also broke the school record in the 400-IM during a preliminary with a time of 3:58.35

Medley teams also earned three All-American distinctions. Leckey, Bayer, Flanagan and freshman David Chao swam to a 10th place finish in the 400-yard medley.

Leckey, Bayer, Kushner and Chao placed third in the 800-yard freestyle relay. The same team finished 17th in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"Our goal was to finish in the top ten, but we did move up five places from last year. Everyone swam really well, but Alex and

Mike did especially well," said Leckey.

The team almost finished the tournament in the 10th spot, but the team did not qualify for the finals in the 400-freestyle relay, which allowed other teams to pass Wash. U. in overall position.

"We came in third in the 500-free relay. We swam out of our minds on that. We were in the top 10 going into the last event, but we did not make the final in the 400-free relay. Not being in that kind of hurt us," said Leckey.

The NCAA Championships mark the end of the 2007-2008 season, and the team will end the season with a 5-0 record in dual-meet competition.

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## Sudoku By The Mephram Group

**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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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

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## Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
24	25	26	27									
30												
33												
36												
47	48	49	50									
54												
57												
60												
68												
71												

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### Solutions

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

9 Start of the end zone  
10 Banner headlines  
11 burner  
12 Struggle  
13 At least as much as

21 Standoff  
23 Change color  
24 Entreats  
25 Homestead plot  
26 Cut with an ax  
27 Blow a horn  
28 Diligent insect  
32 Overbalance  
34 Fragment from space

37 Reeled  
38 Stitch  
40 Vaccines  
41 Nose alert  
42 Back of the neck  
43 All over again  
45 Knight's title  
47 Even-  
48 U.S. oil company

49 Bird of prey  
50 Cure starter?  
51 Distress letters  
52 Piaf and Wharton  
56 Computer insert

58 Father  
62 Wickedness  
64 Function  
65 City in GA  
66 Court divider  
67 6-pointers in football



# SPORTS

## Men's basketball goes all the way

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 1

poise and passion emblematic of champions and, by the time the Salem Civic Center scoreboard clock struck zero, the team had left no doubt about which team was number one.

Amherst coach David Hixon neglected to double-team Ruths in the early going, and Wash. U.'s senior captain and second all-time leading scorer took full advantage.

"Throughout the whole season, I saw a lot of double-teams and triple-teams, and these last two games, they decided to play me straight up, and that's what I was praying for," said Ruths.

The 6-foot-6-inch center consistently disrupted the Lord Jeffs' interior game.

Trailing 45-32 at halftime, Amherst chipped away at the Wash. U. lead to open the second half. The Jeffs narrowed the deficit to six on a pair of occasions, but the Bears' uncanny 70 percent shooting in the second half proved much too difficult to overcome.

Each time Amherst put together a string of baskets, Ruths and the Bears came right back to slam the proverbial door. Wash. U. hit clutch basket after clutch basket, many of which came as the shot clock wound down.

Ruths finished with 33 points, 15 of which came from the foul line on just 17 attempts. Thompson ended the night with 19 and joined Ruths on the all-tournament team.

Nading, whose defensive efforts all weekend helped limit the opposition's offensive potency, wound up with 13 points to go along with five rebounds and four steals. O'Boyle again came up big off the bench, scoring eight points, including a pair of crucial threes.

Sophomore point guard Ross Kelley did a tremendous job limiting defensively on Amherst's point guard and 2006-2007 National Player of the Year Andrew Olson. Olson was held to 16 points on the afternoon while committing a highly uncharacteristic eight turnovers. "Ross dogged him the whole game and made him frustrated," said Thompson.

Kelley finished with five assists and committed just two turnovers against the athletic Lord Jeffs' defense. The Wash. U. faithful will not soon forget his defense on Olson.

Nor will they forget the Final Four experience more generally. The three busloads of Wash. U. students who traveled more than 10 hours



Troy Ruths dunks during the NCAA championship final match.

in each direction were commended by the players and national commentators alike for the intensity and spirit they brought to Virginia's self-proclaimed "Championship City."

The celebration began as soon as sophomore Michael Young tossed the ball into the air as time ran out. The fans were held back as a ton of confetti showered the court and the team, but the players showed their appreciation, leaping into the crowd as soon as possible to give hugs and thanks to their devoted supporters.

"We have the best fans in

the country," said Kelley.

The seniors savored their final win.

"There's no better way to go out," said senior Moss Schermerhorn. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

"I couldn't possibly have asked for anything more," said classmate O'Boyle. "I'm still riding the high of the championship."

Head Coach Mark Edwards shared the victory with the entire community.

"Everybody joined in together to make this a successful weekend," said Edwards. "Enjoy it, revel in it and spread it from here."

## Fan bus a huge success

BY TRISHA WOLF  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

This weekend, 108 loyal fans watched the men's basketball team win a national championship.

"The students who went seemed to have a great time and were part of something historic," said Dean of Students Justin Carroll, who helped plan the event. "The team played extremely well, but if you ask them, the team will say that they were motivated by fan support."

Despite a breakdown and traffic in West Virginia, the buses made the ideally 11-hour trek to Salem with plenty of time to spare. Fans bombarded the Salem Civic Center clad in red. Though the Washington University contingent was smaller than Hope College's in the semifinal match, the Red and Green decibel level was far more dominating.

"[The fans] really set the tone and made the gym loud for us," said basketball player Moss Schermerhorn, a senior.

"That's just what gets us going more than anything else. It really gets a great atmosphere for us so we love it."

Trevor MacDonald of the Athletic Department and Carroll were in charge of much of the initial planning for the bus project. They had talked about having a fan bus before sectional games and spent much of the early part of last week planning logistics. "We started with one bus and 20 rooms and expanded to three buses and over 50 rooms," said MacDonald.

Earlier this year, MacDonald planned a fan bus to the volleyball national championship. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest and plans fell through. This was not the case with basketball.

"Basketball had great support and we heard others wanted to go," said MacDonald. "We were going to go through with one bus no matter what."

Mary Elliot, the residential college director for Liggett-Koenig Residential College, took over planning the trip after MacDonald and Carroll

left for Virginia on Wednesday and served as the head chaperone for the trip.

"Justin Carroll said that we had a bus after last Saturday's game and a bunch of them said let us know if you need chaperones," said Elliot.

The school paid for the buses, hotel rooms and game tickets, providing students with a unique opportunity.

"I was really glad the school got that together for us," said freshman Ryan Henderson, who decided to travel to Virginia after attending most of the home basketball games this year.

Though the fan bus was overall a success, one student, according to Athletic Director John Schael, was arrested Saturday for excessive use of alcohol. The student was able to return to St. Louis with the rest of the group.

Overall, students enjoyed the experience.

"It was more like a 14-hour bus ride," said sophomore Will Javellana, a member of the Phi Delta Theta Bomb Squad. "It was brutal but it was worth it."



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

Aaron Thompson pushes through the Amherst defense for a layup.

**"There's no better way to go out."**

- Moss Schermerhorn  
Team Co-captain, #11



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

Tyler Nading shoots over an Amherst opponent in the NCAA Championship final match.