

# STUDENT LIFE

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS MO SINCE 1878

VOLUME 129, NO. 70

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

WWW.STUDLIFE.COM

## Senate examines higher education endowments

❖ Finance Committee urges higher spending on undergraduate aid

BY PERRY STEIN  
NEWS EDITOR

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee hopes to determine whether universities are using their endowments to ensure that low- and middle-income students have access to higher education.

In order to conduct that analysis, run in conjunction with higher education trade publication Inside Higher Ed, the committee requested that the nation's wealthiest 136 colleges and universities submit their endowment information. The request, with which Washington

University complied, came in response to a study conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, which indicated double-digit endowment growth rates at hundreds of colleges in 2007.

"It's fair to ask whether a college kid should have to wash dishes in the dining hall to pay his tuition when his college has a billion dollars in the bank. We're giving well-funded colleges a chance to describe what they're doing to help students," Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, the ranking Republican of the Sen-

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## MSNBC's Chris Matthews to speak at Commencement

BY BEN SALES AND JOHN SCOTT  
NEWS STAFF

Washington University announced Monday that Chris Matthews, the host of MSNBC's "Hardball," will speak at the University's Commencement ceremony in May.

Chancellor Mark Wrighton says Matthews is a good choice because he is in touch with current social and political issues.

"Chris Matthews continues to be an important figure in the national news media with respect to the American political process," Wrighton said in a University press release. "He is familiar with both Washington University and the pressing challenges that face our society to-

day—challenges that our new graduates will be working to overcome and address."

Student Union President Neil Patel, a member of the committee that helped select the Commencement speaker, says having Matthews speak is a good way to promote political participation.

"Chris Matthews is an excellent choice for people on campus who are politically aware. He's an exciting person. He has definite name recognition. He'll get people's interest peaked," Patel said.

Patel added that in the future, the committee should select speakers who are more connected to the University.

"In the future it would be

See MATTHEWS, page 8



Chris Matthews, the 2008 Commencement speaker, addressed a lecture hall of students in 2003 during the annual Founder's Day speech, urging students to vote in the 2004 presidential election.

## Mr. Smith goes to Washington (University)



SCOTT BRESSLER | STUDENT LIFE

A dinner and discussion with former Congressmen Sam Coppersmith (D-AZ) and Bob McEwen (R-OH) in Ursa's Fireside on Monday, March 31. Coppersmith, sitting far left, and McEwen, sitting far right, led the discussion. The event was hosted by the Gephardt Institute and co-sponsored by the College Republicans and Democrats. Check out @Press tomorrow for an interview with the congressmen.

## "West Bank Story" director Sandel shares personal stories

BY ANN JOHNSON  
STAFF REPORTER

Ari Sandel, the creator of "West Bank Story," spoke about his movie's message of hope and peace yesterday at Washington University.

"West Bank Story," a comedic retelling of "West Side Story," centers around two competing falafel stands in the West Bank—one Israeli and one Palestinian. At the heart of the movie is a love affair between a Jewish soldier and

a Palestinian woman. The film received an Oscar in 2007 for Best Live-Action Short Film.

While the film examines the Israeli-Palestinian con-

See SANDEL, page 2

## When anesthesia fails, surgery patients wake up

BY TEDDY WHITE  
NEWS MANAGER

Imagine gaining a degree of consciousness in the middle of surgery and being physically unable to show any signs

of discomfort. Known in the medical world as anesthesia awareness, this medical lapse has proved to be somewhat endemic for surgery patients.

According to a recent study performed by researchers at

the Washington University School of Medicine, the device that doctors currently rely on to prevent anesthesia awareness may not be as effective as

See SURGERY, page 2

## Students step up in Sexual Assault Awareness Week

BY ANN JOHNSON  
STAFF REPORTER

As students pass through Mallinckrodt Center this week, they will notice dozens of t-shirts hanging inside the building. The display, titled the Clothesline Project, has been designed and decorated by survivors of rape and sexual assaults.

The Clothesline Project is part of Washington University's annual Sexual Assault Awareness Week, sponsored by the Committee Organized for Rape Education (CORE). The week's events focus on breaking the myths about rape and sexual assault and raising general awareness of sexual assault.

More than 100 students attended Take Back the Night on Monday, an event in which women march through the

streets as a symbol for reclaiming the streets as a safe place for both women and children after dark. Following the march, students gathered for Speak Out, an intimate discussion of why participants chose to march.

"When people do things in large groups, they start to care about the issues," CORE member Jen Hau said. "[Take Back the Night] is a combination of interaction, fun and excitement and making the issues personal. Then, Speak Out can be really intense and touching."

An informal panel discussion entitled "Sexual Assault on the Margins" was scheduled to take place today, but was cancelled because the lead speaker could not attend.

On Thursday, a lecture called "Cycles of Poverty and

Sexual Assault" will be held at 8 p.m. at Ursa's. The lecture will discuss the link between poverty and sexual assault and how that link affects police responses.

"People don't want to think that [sexual assault] exists or is out there in the Wash. U. bubble. We want to make Wash. U. an open forum for this issue," Hau said. "Maybe jarring people out of their complacency is a good thing. I think it really does say something about how our school is sometimes reluctant to talk about issues [like these]."

Many sorority members attended Take Back the Night.

"We've always kind of encouraged people to go to it. We already have members who are involved with SARAH and CORE, so if our members

See AWARENESS, page 2



MATT LANIER | STUDENT LIFE

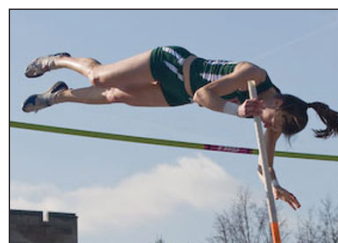
Students march during Take Back the Night, a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week, on Tuesday evening. They marched from Brookings Quad through the Loop and ended on the South 40.

## Counting cards for fun and profit



Cadenza interviews Jeff Ma, inspiration for the new blackjack movie "21," which won big at the box office this weekend. Cadenza, Page 9

## Bears soar over competition



Wash. U. hosted its second track and field meet of the year this past weekend. See how the men and women fared on the home turf. Sports, Page 4

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## STUDENT LIFE

One Brookings Drive #1039  
#42 Women's Building  
Saint Louis, MO 63130-4899

News: (314) 935-5995  
Advertising: (314) 935-6713  
Fax: (314) 935-5938  
e-mail: editor@studlife.com  
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## SANDEL ❖ FROM PAGE 1



Ari Sandel, creator of "West Bank Story" the film that won the the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film in 2007, spoke on campus yesterday as a part of the assembly series. Sandel is pictured here at the 2007 Oscars in Los Angeles, California.

flict, Sandel says that it was not intended to be a learning tool, but rather as a response to the many one-sided documentaries and news reports that portray the conflict as never-ending.

Consequently, the film gives a message of hope for

a peaceful future, brought about by new love and overcoming common obstacles.

"I sometimes get remarks about the film being too simplistic and that it does not accurately show the suffering of any one side. I agree. It is simplistic, because it has to be in

## SURGERY ❖ FROM PAGE 1

was once believed.

"People who are unconscious due to anesthesia expect to feel and know nothing," Alex Evers, head of the department of anesthesiology, said. "However, some people can recall things they heard, smelled, or pain felt from the surgery."

For minor surgeries, the incidence of anesthesia awareness occurs approximately once per 1,000 cases. But Evers said that "for high-risk patients such as alcoholics, drug addicts, or people that are undergoing big surgeries, there may be an incidence as high as one percent."

Second-year medical student Adam Searleman, who assisted in the study, added that those high-risk patients may not respond to anesthesia as effectively.

"Sicker patients, such as those who have drug or alcohol problems, have a higher risk because they often develop a resistance to the agents used

in the anesthesia,"

With roughly 40 million anesthesia patients in the U.S. each year, the tenth-of-one-percent incidence rate may appear as an insignificant figure by itself. However, the tiny percentage does amount up to a considerable number of patients experiencing awareness during surgery.

According to Michael Avidan, associate professor of anesthesiology and the lead author of the study, patients who experience anesthesia awareness often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Avidan presented a documented case in which the patient woke up in pain and fear when the paralyzing agent of anesthesia wore off after the surgery.

"I woke up, I woke up...and felt excruciating pain in my abdomen. I remember being in tremendous fear," the patient said, as recorded in the document.

A 2004 study called "B-

order to be a comedy," Sandel said. "I truly believe that peace between Israelis and Arabs will be achieved and don't believe it is a hopeless endeavor. We wanted to make a film that would convey that feeling."

The event was sponsored by the Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman Fund and Students for a Peaceful Palestinian-Israeli Future (SPPIF). The funding for the lecture was established to honor the work of Rabbi Isserman, who dedicated his life to promoting interfaith connections.

SPPIF first screened "West Bank Story" last year and its positive reception led SPPIF to invite Sandel to speak on campus.

Sophomore Robert Fares, SPPIF's president, says the group chose to bring Sandel to campus because he is an interesting speaker and because many people know about the movie but not the conflict itself.

"His lecture might draw people who don't know much about the conflict, or people

who are apathetic to it. We're hoping to get people enthusiastic, and Ari will help," Fares said. "His movie has a very optimistic message that can be radical in some places of the world. It's right in tune with what SPPIF is trying to promote. Maybe more people from Washington University will get involved because of his lecture."

Sandel's speech focused on what the process of making "West Bank Story" was like. He told humorous tales from all stages of its production—from when it was just an idea in college to his big night at the Os-

cars and the film's showing in Dubai.

Ladue Native Bob Newmark, the actor who played David—the Israeli soldier, in "West Bank Story"—accompanied Sandel to the University event.

"I don't buy into the idea that the fighting is genetic and that Israelis and Palestinians will never get along and that Jews and Arabs are like cats and dogs," Sandel said. "I wanted to make a short film that might make people more interested and spark their hope—they might read more or learn about the other side."

## AWARENESS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

don't go with our sorority, they often go with other groups," Pi Beta Phi President and junior Jessica Waserman said.

Despite the large attendance of female students at Sexual Assault Awareness Week, Hau emphasizes the fact that sexual assault is an issue not limited to only

women.

"We try to market it as not just a women's issue. [Sexual assault affects] one in four women and one in 10 men," Hau said. "Not only are they survivors, but they have friends, sisters, mothers. Lots of people come in support."

Aware" reported that a Bispectral Monitor Device (BIS), which is the monitoring device that most hospitals use to regulate anesthesia levels, could reduce the occurrence of anesthesia awareness by ten-fold. With BIS, doctors can ensure that the patient's brain wave index is kept between 40 and 60, in a scale where 100 indicates full consciousness, and zero indicates no brain activity at all.

In reading the study, Evers and Avidan encountered what they saw as a fundamental flaw. The study had not compared the BIS to a control group, such as any of the other existing monitoring protocols that can reduce the risk of anesthesia awareness.

In collaboration with a number of other doctors and medical students, Avidan conducted a new study called "B-Unaware," published in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 13. Rather than comparing the BIS monitor group to a control group that

received no treatment at all, the new study compared BIS to a monitoring technique called End-Tidal Anesthesia Gas (ETAG) to test for differences in the occurrence of anesthesia awareness between the two techniques. ETAG monitors the anesthesia gas contents that the patient is breathing out during the surgery.

The researchers performed the study on 2,000 patients, with half receiving BIS monitoring and the other half receiving ETAG. The results showed that both groups had between a 0.1 percent and 1 percent incidence. The study also demonstrated that neither BIS nor ETAG were 100 percent effective at preventing anesthesia awareness.

Patients in the study who were monitored through ETAG were also attached to a BIS monitoring system, allowing the doctors to test whether BIS would have successfully prevented anesthesia awareness in the few instances in which

ETAG had failed to do so. The results showed that such was not the case.

Avidan is currently expanding the study by testing more patients to determine if a larger test pool will produce any disparity between the BIS group and the ETAG group that may not have arisen in the initial study of only 2,000 patients. This new study hypothesizes that the difference will be negligible.

According to Avidan, the study suggests that BIS monitoring—a highly expensive system—may not be worth its cost.

"The intent of the research is not to attack the Bispectral Index Monitoring System itself," Avidan said. "The intent is rather to evaluate the integrity of the system dispassionately, and with no financial interests."

Immediately following the publication of the research, the stock of BIS plummeted 50 percent.

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## This Season at the Saint Louis Art Museum

Thursday, April 3 The Houses of Frank Lloyd Wright

7:00 pm

Auditorium—Free

Join architect, historian, and author Robert McCarter as he will explore the interior spaces, materials, construction, and connections to nature in Wright's Prairie, Concrete Block, and Usonian Houses.

Thursday, April 10 An Evening with Sarah Oppenheimer

7:00 pm

Auditorium—Free

Artist Sarah Oppenheimer will discuss her work and the installation she created for *Currents 102: Sarah Oppenheimer*, which will be on view from April 11 through July 6, 2008 in Gallery 337.

Tuesday, April 15 What is Contemporary Chinese Art?

7:00 pm

Auditorium—Free

Professor Wu Hung will discuss the concept of "contemporary Chinese art" in relation to artistic intent, its place in the global art world, and its relationship to Chinese society.

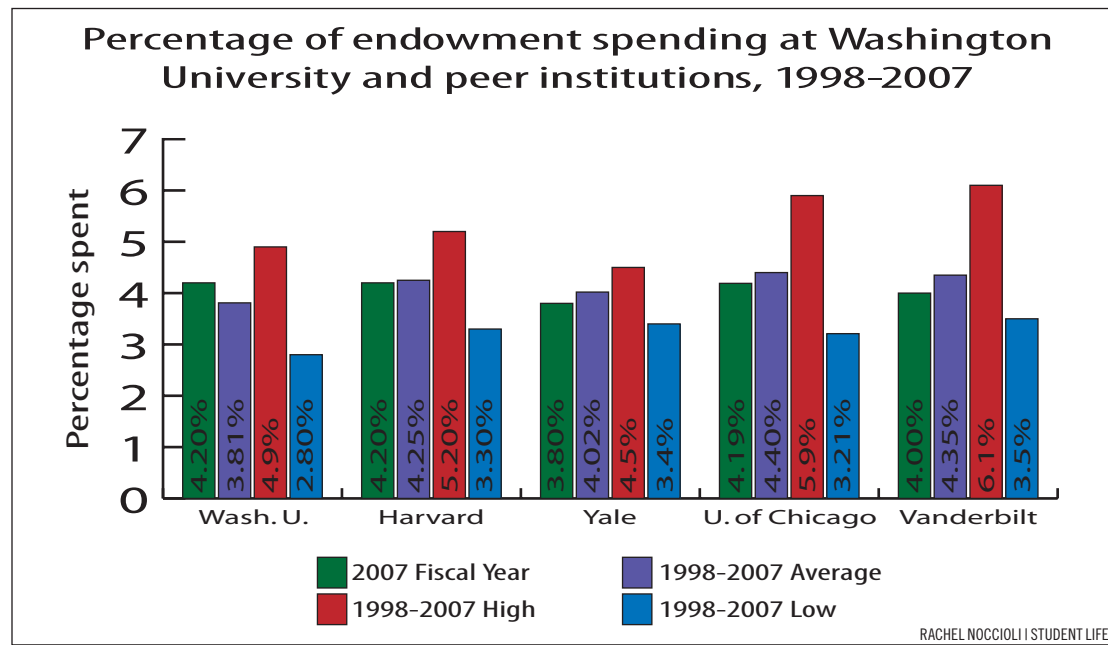
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**SPENDING ❖ FROM PAGE 1**



ate Finance Committee, said in the January press release.

Pending the results of its findings, the committee may require each university to spend at least five percent of its endowment every year, a federally mandated spending minimum that is already required of many not-for-profit foundations.

If the five percent minimum is enacted, it could have significant ramifications on universities since many of them do not currently meet the five percent mark.

Of the 19 responses received by Inside Higher Ed, 15 schools have spent less than five percent of their endowment on average over the last 10 years.

In an article in The Chronicles of Higher Education, Chancellor Mark Wrighton said that the senators' approach of applying the same regulations to the University that are applied to grant-making foundations is simplistic. Washington University consistently spends less than five percent of its endowment per year.

"[Non-profit] foundations don't have the enduring obligations that we do," Wrighton said in the article. "Foundations don't

have the physical and human resource commitments."

Hoping to analyze the endowment spending information for public use, Inside Higher Ed requested the data from the 25 universities with the largest endowments. The University did not release its information in time to be included in the article, though it has since made that data available.

According to Steve Givens, associate vice chancellor and executive director of University communications, the University's delay in releasing the information came because the administration was waiting for official permission from the Committee of Senate Finance. As a result, the University's information was not included in Inside Higher Ed's report.

"We did not release the information to Inside Higher Education when requested because it is correspondence between the University and the Senate Finance Committee, and it is not appropriate to release correspondence without gaining the approval of the recipient," Givens said in an e-mail.

Emory University and North-

western University, the only two universities that still have not released their information, issued similar statements to *Student Life*.

According to the letter to the committee, released on March 31, in 2007 the University spent \$197.2 million—4.2 percent at market value of its \$5.7 billion endowment. Over the last 10 years the University has spent an average of 3.8 percent of its endowment per year. This average has increased to 4.48 percent over the last five years.

Despite the fact that the University has never met the recommended five percent spending threshold during the past 20 years, in the report Wrighton said that the University is meeting the financial needs of its students.

"While there have been years in which the payout on a current basis has been less than five percent, the needs of the student body, faculty, research programs, academic programs and other activities supported by the endowment have been met as the spending from the endowment has always increased," the report stated. "Over the past decade total endowment spending has increased 120 percent, which is more than any other source of University operating revenue."

The report also stated that two-thirds of the University endowment's assets and earnings are restricted, and consequently can only be spent on certain projects.

"Approximately \$3.7 billion, or 67 percent of the endowment, is subject to restrictions by the donor. Restrictions include designated functions, programs, specific expenses or a particular school within the University," the report stated.

Included in last year's list of the University's top 10 major expenditures from the endowment are supporting academic programs, capital projects (new building and renovations), student financial aid, salaries and benefits for professors who hold endowed chairs, research, graduate fellowships, library, student activities, lectureships and seminars and museums.

Harvard University, with the largest endowment of \$34.6 billion, spent an average of 4.20 percent over the last 10 years on financial aid; Yale spent 3.8 percent. The lowest mark came from the University of Minnesota, which spent an average of 2.80 percent of its endowment on aid.

Pedro de la Torre, an organizer for education advocacy group Campus Progress, stressed the importance of universities keeping their information open.

"Transparency is key, it's the best policy. We think any school should be able to release this information without any negative side effects," de la Torre said.



President Bush listens to Alphonso Jackson speak about his nomination for HUD Secretary on December 12, 2003, at the White House in Washington, D.C. This past Monday, Jackson resigned from his position.

**Amid controversy, University alum resigns as U.S. HUD Secretary**

BY PERRY STEIN  
NEWS EDITOR

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson, a Washington University alum, stepped down from his position on March 31.

Jackson, who graduated from the School of Law with a J.D. in 1973, resigned amid allegations that his agency improperly commissioned federal housing contracts to political allies.

"During my time here, I have sought to make America a better place to live, work and raise a family," Jackson said in a press statement regarding his resignation. "I take great pride in working alongside some of the most dedicated civil servants in America. The hardworking people at HUD make a difference in the lives of thousands of Americans daily."

President George W. Bush nominated Jackson as the 13th secretary of HUD in 2004.



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# SPORTS

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Track and field runs circles around competition

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University track and field finished another weekend of intense competition in the second of four University-hosted meets this past weekend. The women won their meet of 15 schools while the men placed fifth in their 16-team meet. The win is the third of the year for the Lady Bears and second straight.

Senior, co-captain and All-American Morgen Leonard-Fleckman, junior Jess Lane

and senior Colleen Moreland finished second, third and fifth respectively in the women's pole vault while freshman Scott Pettit won second on the men's side.

Juniors Aubrey Edwards and Liat Rome took third and fifth in the women's discus throw, and sophomore Keith England won the javelin throw.

In the women's running events, junior Danielle Wadlington won the 100- and 400-meter hurdles, and freshman Kelli Blake won the 1,500-meter run. The Red and Green also domi-

nated the 800-meter run, with seniors Lisa Sudmeier and Angela Hartman, Blake and freshman Vie Duncan taking first, second, third and ninth respectively. The women also won the 4x400-meter relay, senior Tyler Mulkin won the 10K and junior Allie Alberts won the heptathlon.

Overall, the women earned 163 points, 65 more points than the second place finisher, Florissant Valley C.C.

"People who have been doing well during indoor have been doing well and staying healthy.

Everyone has transitioned well over to spring," Edwards, a co-captain said.

The men also fared well in the running events, as they took the 4x400-meter relay, and freshman Ben Harmon won the decathlon. Freshman Skyler Moots took third in the 1,500-meter run, senior Jesse McDaniel took third in the 5,000-meter run, and sophomore Matt Kruger finished second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

The men finished 54.5 points behind winner UW-Platteville, but senior Corey Kubatzky

thinks that the team will improve quickly.

"Our focus has always been on the outdoor season. A lot of time, we do better at outdoor conference than indoor conference. It's a matter of getting healthy," Kubatzky said, citing multiple injuries to male distance runners.

The University will host two more track meets this season, both of which will occur over the next two weekends. The Washington University Select will take place on Saturday, followed by the Washington

University Quad the following weekend.

"It's nice [to be at home] because we can run more people. Everyone who's healthy pretty much gets to compete. It's nice to get a little fan support every once in a while," Kubatzky added.

Edwards thinks that the team will continue to fare well against top competition as long as all teammates stay focused. "We cannot get too worked up over the competition. We have to remain focused on ourselves," Edwards said.



Junior Danielle Wadlington, center, takes the lead in one of her winning events, the 400-meter hurdles. This past weekend, Washington University men and women's track and field teams finished second, in part due to Wadlington's victories.

DAVID HARTSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE

## RECENT TOP PERFORMERS

### Ben Harmon

#### Track and Field

The freshman won the decathlon last weekend at the Washington University Invitational with 6,471 points, provisionally qualifying for the NCAA championships. Within the decathlon events, he won the long jump, high jump, 400-meter dash, pole vault and 1,500-meter run.

### Tyler Mulkin

#### Track and Field

The senior placed second in the 10,000-meter run last weekend at the Washington University Invitational with a time of 36:47.31, provisionally qualifying for the NCAA outdoor championship meet.

### John Watts

#### Men's Tennis

The sophomore went 7-1 on last weekend's Texas road trip, including a perfect 4-0 mark in singles. The top-ranked singles player in Division III's most impressive wins included a 6-4, 6-1 win over No. 3 Daniel Greenberg of Williams, a 7-5, 6-0 win over No. 9 Oliver Gaines of Trinity University, and a 6-2, 6-3 win over No. 17 Lawrence Wang of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

### Erin Swaller

#### Women's Tennis

The junior won both her singles and doubles match as the women's tennis team defeated McKendree University 7-1 last Thursday. Playing #1 singles, she defeated Maria Occhipinti 6-3, 7-5 and teamed with freshman Kalee Cassidy at #2 doubles to defeat Sara Johnson and Erin Thoman 8-3.



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## MEN'S TENNIS

## Men's tennis wins big in Texas

BY ALEX TINT  
SPORTS REPORTER

As most of us remained in St. Louis over the weekend, waiting for the Arch to float away, the Washington University men's tennis team, ranked third in Division III at the time, escaped to beautiful weather in Texas for its first competition in over three weeks.

The Bears finished the weekend 3-1, with wins against No. 7 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps College (Calif.), No. 8 Trinity University (Texas) and Hardin-Simmons University (Texas), while suffering a loss to No. 9 Williams College (Mass.). The team was competing in its first outdoor match of the season when it took the court against Williams on Friday.

The Red and Green's success became apparent in the newest ITA poll, as the Bears now sit in the second spot behind UC-Santa Cruz, a team which knocked off the University on February 23. The No. 2 ranking is the highest in school history.

"We were definitely a little nervous," sophomore John Watts said in response to how the 25-day layoff affected the team's performance. "There's no practice that can ever substitute for real matches."

"There's a big difference between tennis outdoors and tennis indoors. Once you get outdoors, you have to deal with wind, sun [and] moisture. The ball doesn't travel as fast. A 150 mph Roddick serve indoors is much different than a 150 mph Roddick serve outdoors," Head Coach Roger Follmer explained.

Follmer noticed the rust from the very start of the match.

"The main thing we had been stressing was to extend rallies as long as we could. Our singles players have to be more patient to be able to put the ball away, and I saw from the start that we weren't doing that," Follmer said.

"They're a good team. It was a close match. It woke us up. We won everything the rest of the weekend," Watts explained.

After Friday's 6-3 loss to Williams, the Bears won a close match against Trinity 5-4 on Saturday morning before handily

beating Hardin-Simmons later that day and Claremont on Sunday morning by a score of 7-2 for both matches.

"The singles play progressed impressively throughout the weekend. The entire team improved from Friday to Saturday, but we improved even more from Saturday to Sunday. It's a good

sign going forward," Follmer said.

The Bears next attempt to improve upon a 9-3 record on Saturday, April 12 when they will begin a stretch of seven matches in 11 days, culminating in consecutive home matches on April 22 and 23 against local opponents Lindenwood University and McK-

endree University.

As the Bears set off for the rest of the season, Follmer noted that while the team has a few minor details to hammer out, they will focus on building up strength and improving the overall fitness level of the team to prep them for the long run.



COURTESY OF MARK PARTRIDGE

Freshman Isaac Stein and Junior Eric Pollak show their bear spirit for men's tennis. This past weekend, the team battled Williams College, Trinity University, Hardin-Simmons and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps College in singles and doubles competitions.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Head to the campus bookstore to check out the impressive Jostens Trophy recently won by senior Troy Ruths of the men's basketball team. It is two feet high and weighs 64 pounds with an eight inch basketball in the center made of Czech crystal and a base made of solid cherry wood.

Check out Sean Wallis' take on the Final Four at <http://www.d3hoops.com/daily-dose/2008/03/28/insider-really-sweet>

## Around the WU:

### This Week in Home Sports

**Wed. April 2**

Baseball  
vs. MacMurray College  
6 p.m., Kelly Field

Women's Tennis  
vs. Maryville University  
4:30 p.m., Tao Tennis Center

**Sat. April 5**

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 pwittig@artsci.wustl.edu      sweeney@wustl.edu      tacroner@artsci.wustl.edu

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

We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Our goals for next year's SU exec board

This past week, we elected the "YOU" slate to take over the Student Union (SU) executive board. The "YOU" slate follows an SU executive board that governed more effectively than many of the boards we've seen in recent history. Specifically, the members of Neil Patel's administration have been successful in their efforts to be transparent about their decisions, including their advocacy for students on issues like the technology changes and the desire for a sexual assault prevention coordinator, and their progress toward campus improvements such as the move toward block funding for the Athletic Complex. We hope to see similar improvements to our University from the members of the "YOU"

slate. Specifically, we look for specific plans and the execution of tangible changes to the student experience, SU Senate reforms, increased interaction with the student body and an effort to help students utilize the Danforth University Center (DUC).

1. Make changes that improve the student experience: When we spoke with Brittany Perez before she was elected president, we were concerned by her lack of concrete ideas for change. When asked about her specific plans for improving the University, she spoke of creating a campus calendar and making SU more approachable. While we agree that both of these goals are worthwhile, we hope to see more from this administration than friendliness and the cre-

ation of a calendar. The entire executive slate should take inspiration from the detailed improvement plans put forth by Vice President of Administration Jeff Nelson.

2. Reform the Senate: During *Student Life's* endorsement interviews, we heard repeated mention of problems with the current structure of the SU Senate. Nelson told us that because the current system is uncompetitive, many senators do not fully appreciate the value of their seats. He explained that some Senate meetings did not have a quorum because attendance was so poor. To remedy this problem, Nelson has put forth a plan to cut the number of Senate seats from 27 to 19 in order to increase competition for the seats. This is an issue next year's execu-

tive board needs to address. Additionally, the current structure of the Senate fails to maximize efficiency due to a lack of internal communication.

This year, there have been instances in which different senators and executive board members worked on similar projects without sharing information and collaborating. For example, several different students within the Senate independently worked on creating a University calendar to replace Spark without collaborating. We hope next year's SU executive board works to increase communication and efficiency to maximize results for the student body.

3. Take SU to the students: Communication with the student body is necessary

in order for students to take advantage of SU resources and to help interest students in running for SU positions. SU currently communicates with students mostly through e-mail and SU updates, but e-mails are not always the most effective method for communicating with students. Next year's SU executive board needs to find ways of taking information about SU proceedings to students. This means becoming more of a physical presence within student body by attending events and talking with students during lunch.

4. Solicit student feedback: A recent survey asking how students would like SU to spend their activities fee has offered some hope that SU will actively seek student input before making significant deci-

sions. SU needs to keep this up and make sure it understands what students are thinking before making choices that will significantly affect the student body.

5. Integrate the DUC into campus life: The DUC has the potential to transform Wash. U. It can be a gathering place, a place where students come together to hang out, which is something this campus currently lacks. SU needs to work to help the DUC become a place that truly seems like a student center by working to get students to use the building. When the DUC does become a highly frequented building, SU can use it as a site for interaction with students, thereby helping students become familiar with SU and its proceedings.

## THE CLASSIC JOHNNY CHANG | EDITORIAL CARTOON

### I Smell A Sitcom



This cartoon originally ran March 24, 2008.

## Another uninspiring commencement speaker

BY DANIEL MILSTEIN  
 OP-ED SUBMISSION

At least Tim Russert was the best in his field. "Meet the Press?" Man, that's legendary. Russert's a titan. Sure, the conventional wisdom is that he was an awful choice for Commencement speaker, but hey, it could have been worse. It could have been just another pundit who just loves hearing himself speak, like Bill O'Reilly or Chris Matthews. Surely, for my Commencement, I'll get an inspiring speaker. The administration won't make the same mistake again (and again)...well, shucks.

That the administration actually chose Chris Matthews to be Commencement speaker is astounding. That Chancellor Wrighton actually had the cojones to claim it would be a "privilege" to hear him speak is unbelievable. Unfortunately, the utter lack of respect the administration has shown for the Class of 2008 with its choice is anything but surprising.

Commencement is for the students. There is no equivocating about that.

It's the Class of 2008's last day as Wash. U. undergrads. Afterwards, we're supposed to go on to bigger and better things, and the Commencement speaker is supposed to inspire us and help us on our journey. Past speakers like Julian Bond (civil rights activist), Marian Edelman (children's rights activist) or Peter Raven (director of the Missouri Botanical Garden) may not be household names, but they have fascinating backgrounds and inspiring stories to tell.

Raven's address, for example, was titled "Attitudes and Alliances: Shared Dependencies and Responsibilities for the Environment." This was given in 1993, 14 years before Al Gore won the Nobel Prize. Fourteen years. In 2008, we're getting just another talking head.

What makes the choice so infuriating is the fact that it seems like every Commencement speaker in the recent past has been political. In 2003, it was Madeleine Albright.

It can certainly be argued, however, that Albright was a worthy choice, given her experience as ambassador to the United Nations and Secretary of State. It started to go downhill from there. Thomas Friedman is an expert on globalization, and when he spoke in 2004, globalization was just beginning to become a major issue. It's hard to imagine what that speech

offered students, however. Then in 2005, it was Dick Gephardt, who may not have been chosen had he still been in Congress. Sir John Major didn't bring anything entirely different to the table. And now we get the back-to-back punditry of Tim Russert and Chris Matthews. Why can't there be something new?

Chancellor Wrighton explained that part of the allure of Matthews is that "he is familiar with both Washington University and the pressing challenges that face our society today." This may be true. But having been on campus shouldn't be a factor in picking the Commencement speaker. And there are many people who have foresight about today's pressing issues. Howard Zinn, for example, has written such books as "A People's History of the United States," which was written to inform Americans about lesser known events that shaped the country. Surely he would be at least as interesting as Chris Matthews. U.S. News and World Report called Jack Healey "Mr. Human Rights." I bet he'd have something inspiring to say.

Wash. U. alum and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Mike Peters could be just as insightful as Chris Matthews and is probably even more familiar with the University. And of course, there's always Stephen Colbert (who just so happens to be giving the commencement address at Princeton this year). He might not be the most inspirational, but he'd certainly keep everyone's attention better than anyone else I've mentioned.

Someone like Howard Zinn or Stephen Colbert may very well have been unavailable to speak. But what is insulting about the choice of Chris Matthews is that he is the last person students want for their Commencement. He represents the overcharged news cycle and partisan hackery that sullies politics today. He didn't cause any excitement when he spoke in 2004, and he is even less exciting now.

We don't want to buy what he's selling, but it's being forced on us anyway. Especially in light of this fall's vice presidential debate, this choice seems designed to help Wash. U. get in that overcharged news cycle, not for the graduating seniors to do so. Hopefully, the Class of 2009 will get a Commencement for them instead of having to join yet another disappointed class.

Daniel is a senior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at daniel.milstein@gmail.com

## China's abusiveness deserves attention

BY ADITYA SARVESH  
 FORUM EDITOR

For those who haven't heard of the politics surrounding the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the Chinese government is dealing with Tibetan monks who are protesting the Chinese occupation and control of Tibet. In the early 1950s, the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet and has maintained a strong military occupation there since. Tens of thousands of Tibetans have lost their lives under the brutal and unjustified rule of the Chinese army.

Anyway, the Buddhist monks are protesting the fact that China represses and unjustly controls Tibet and they hope that other nations around the world will pressure China to leave Tibet. A few days ago, a number of Chinese people and Tibetans were killed by rioters, and the Dalai Lama saw that tensions were rising. The Dalai Lama said that he would step down if

the protestors continued to riot in a violent manner. However, the Chinese government claimed that the Dalai Lama was provoking riots and called him a liar when he mentioned he had nothing to do with the riots.

Maybe it's just me, but I could never think of calling the Dalai Lama a liar, especially when it comes to provoking violence. Buddhists follow the concept of Ahimsa, or non-violence, very closely and the Dalai Lama is the embodiment of that ideal. It seems to me that the Chinese government is hastily calling people names due to a guilty conscience.

With the Olympics drawing near and other countless problems piling up—such as pollution, crime and lack of space—the violation of human rights is the newest addition to the long list. Human rights groups around the world are beginning to take notice of the protests and are also attempting to get the attention of national lawmakers to reprimand the

Chinese government.

Over the past few years, China has been growing enormously and has been vying to become another major industrial power. Many developed nations, includ-

**"The Buddhist monks are protesting the fact that China represses and unjustly controls Tibet and they hope that other nations around the world will pressure China to leave Tibet."**

ing the United States, have looked the other way regarding gross violations of human rights in China because they purchase cheap goods in large quantities. Recently, the developed nations buy-

ing from China have had to reprimand the country due to problems with products, and slowly people are taking notice of other issues. The lead poisoning in children's toys is a drastic example of how much damage was done until people saw the lack of quality in cheap goods. Similarly, the Olympics brought the spotlight on the occupation of Tibet, and now the Chinese government is facing criticism throughout the world.

Of course, whether or not the United States will do anything about the actions of the Chinese government is questionable, but at least more attention has been paid to violation of human rights. Hopefully, some groups will succeed in freeing the people of Tibet, and perhaps the Chinese government can let go of Tibet peacefully.

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

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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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# View from abroad: Mt. Everest for beginners

BY ANNA SOBOTKA  
STAFF COLUMNIST

For all of you guzzling coffee in Whispers and panicking about your next organic chemistry lab or Shakespeare paper, February is only the first full month back after winter break, and all you have to look forward to are the naughty snippets in the Valentine's Day issue of Student Life. But for those of us who opted to spend this semester in Santiago, Chile, February is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is

**“Clare took out her inhaler and one girl broke down crying. I decided there was nothing to do but press on, because I had come to summit that volcano.”**

summer here in the southern cone, and there are no classes, no obligations, and there is a whole continent to explore.

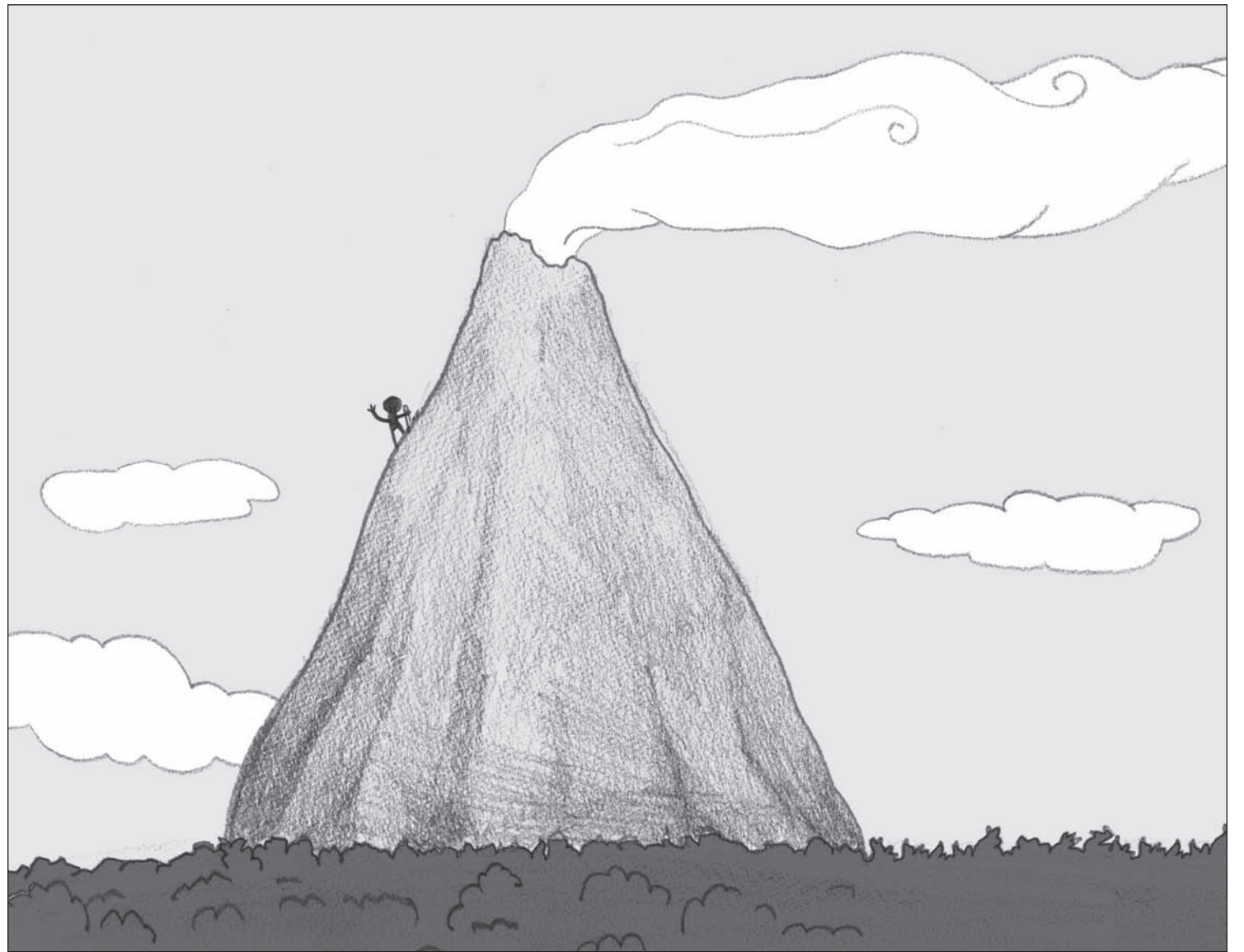
After a very busy January packed with intensive Spanish classes and awkward conversations with our new host families, all 22 of us split into groups, packed our backpacks and headed off to various parts of South America. I ended up in a group with three other girls, Kathryn, Clare and Lydia. They were strangers then, but now we have a whole slew of inside jokes and memories. Our first stop took us to a city called Villarrica in Southern Chile.

Villarrica is touristy beyond belief; everyone walks around with overstuffed camping backpacks and constantly clicking cameras. The city is incredibly pretty. The buildings are low, allowing for stunning views of the surrounding snow-capped

mountains. Standing alone is the volcano Volcán Villarrica, characterized by its size and the stream of smoke that weaves up into the clouds. We decided to summit it early on.

On the day of our volcano adventure, Wednesday, Feb. 6, the four of us dragged ourselves out of bed at the ungodly hour of 5:30 a.m. By 7:45 a.m., we were suited up and on a bus with about eight other hopefuls; among them were Brazilians, Chileans and other Americans. Everyone was given boots, gators (used for more serious trekking, they are the things that go over your pants and shoes and prevent stuff from sneaking into your shoes around your ankles), pants, a backpack, a jacket and an ice pick. The first stretch was easy—we took a ski lift and snapped photos of the incredibly serene and majestic scenery around us. When we got off the chairs, the real work began, and we started the six-hour trek to the top.

The hiking was hard. The first hour or so was rocky and hot, and we had to use the ice picks for stability; each time we moved, the rocks crumbled. Our two guides ushered us along, constantly reminding us that a break was on its way. We were only allotted four 20-minute breaks. They never seemed quite long enough, and they certainly never came fast enough. When we took the first break, I remember Kathryn panting, “Whoever said this was easy was wrong!” We gulped water and lathered on sunscreen. The next stretch took us into the snow—a different sort of challenge. We used our ice picks to keep from sliding down the mountain, and every step was carefully made so that our feet fell into the holes left from those in front of us. We moved in a line, winding slowly and carefully up the mountain. At one point, our guide casually said we had to take a slightly different path because we were near a crevice



RACHEL HARRIS | STUDENT LIFE

that could cause an avalanche at any moment. Casually.

Then, Kathryn decided she just could not go on. Our guide told her, “Of course you can,” and without pausing to take her seriously, he pushed her gently along, constantly reminding her that she could do it. After five hours of walking up basically a straight incline, our legs were shaking, but at the same time I was exhilarated, taking in the breathtaking views of purple mountains all around us. My heart was pounding,

and despite my weariness and the increasing cold, part of me felt really good. I didn't want to stop.

As we got closer to the top, we started complaining about our burning eyes and throats. Our guides remarked, once again casually, about how toxic the sulfurous smoke coming from the inside of the volcano was. We were all startled. We had a good half an hour left, and the pain was pretty intense, but our complaints went unanswered, and we kept going. The

last stretch was really tough. Clare took out her inhaler and one girl broke down crying. I decided there was nothing to do but press on, because I had come to summit that volcano. And then we were there, walking along the rim of a real, active volcano. I would love to say it was priceless and that I felt closer to God and heaven, but what I really felt was the intensity of the sulfur and a desire to get back down, which, after a few minutes of touristy photos, is where we went.

Summitting that volcano, despite everything, was incredible. The exhilaration of looking down on the world was incredible. Finding myself in a cloud was incredible. Sliding down the mountain on my butt was also incredible. I would do it again in a heartbeat. After all, how often does a Wash. U. student get to climb a volcano in February?

*Anna is a junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at [assobotk@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:assobotk@artsci.wustl.edu)*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Matthews poor choice for Commencement Speaker

To The Class of 2008:

It would be in everybody's best interest if Chancellor Wrighton were informed that the vice presidential debate is not, in fact, the same day as our Commencement and that we can reschedule Chris Matthews for the vice presidential debates in the fall.

Sadly, this appointment is no accident. Matthews, like Russert before him, is destined to be the next famous person to give an uninspiring Commencement speech. Chancellor Wrighton commented in The Record that “[Matthews] is familiar with both Washington University and the pressing challenges

that face our society today—challenges that our new graduates will be working to overcome and address.”

While I agree that Matthews is familiar with the obstacles we will face, I would argue that he is actually an embodiment of one of the most significant challenges that our country faces today: a media that sensationalizes and distorts the news, thereby limiting the possibility for informed, democratic discourse and opting for higher ratings instead.

Matthews' speech will come full circle for the Class of 2008, which saw his show during the 2004 presiden-

tial debate held on campus. It will be a reminder of the political catastrophe and international devastation that has occurred during our four-year tenure at Wash. U. But, instead of giving us hope and illuminating our path forward, I fear that Matthews will be unable to escape his role as a talking head, resolving to sell us snake-oil instead.

Where are all the poet laureates and Kurt Vonneguts? Don't we deserve a Commencement to remember?

*-Oliver Hulland  
Class of 2008*

# Vivía la revolución

Turns out, in the 1960s, students seized a university called Sorbonne in France and demanded a democratization of the then-dictatorial classroom. They asked for a say in the administration of the university and hoped to address other societal problems that they thought would be solved by their anarchical energy, undirected but extremely powerful, toward the promotion of a leaderless change. I believe that was about the time the ROTC building at Washington University was burned to the ground.

Interesting. I have to say that I'm a little nostalgic for a time during which I was admittedly never around, when students felt really strongly about issues and, rather than protesting or writing articles about them, burned down buildings and did sit-ins and didn't go to class for days. It's ridiculous, extreme and destructive, but it also meant change.

A lot of that change, it appears, was in the classroom. Not so many years ago, classes used to be consumed by lectures, lectures and lectures, without any kind of egalitarian sharing of ideas or, I guess, input from students at all. I wasn't there, but my guess is that humanities classes had little exchange of ideas and science classes had even less specialized attention than they do now—no TAs, etc.

Outside of the classroom, these 1960s were the times when Student Union was created and I imagine student involvement in it was paramount—fight the man, fight for your rights, wield power that those who rule don't want you to have. Students created Student Union. Right?

My point is that back in the '60s, students went through a lot of trouble to secure our rights on Washington University's campus, inside and outside of the classroom. But we abuse, or we neglect, these rights.

Inside the classroom, especially in humanities courses, the democratization of learning still reigns. In these classes, one teacher with a high-level degree in philosophy or literature facilitates a discussion between 30 or fewer undergraduate students.



Dennis Sweeney

It is sad that the teachers don't have as much chance as they perhaps have earned to air their immense knowledge and inspire a context in students within which to discuss texts (though discussion, learning how to

think and expressing your thoughts are important).

The abuse of this system comes when students don't read and when students don't adopt a respectful critical framework. When a student does not read, which in my experience is the practice of about 50 percent or more of each class, that student almost totally rejects his or her opportunity

**“My point is that back in the '60s students went through a lot of trouble to secure our rights on Washington University's campus, inside and outside of the classroom”**

to learn on the given day. Usually discussion focuses around the reading, and if students are unaware of anything that the text says, the class becomes a course in making themselves look like they have done the reading. Some people have this talent in spades. But I am uncomfortable when the main skill people around me gain is the ability to B.S., a crucial life skill, but I wish it were not.

Students also fail to adopt a respectful or even useful critical framework. When they read Plato and he proposes a more or less authoritarian kind of govern-

ment, they say, “Well, that doesn't work. That's stupid.”

They reject basic principles on which authors base their claims. But they don't understand that in order to successfully learn from a work, one has to suspend one's prejudices and work within the author's framework. It's not a class on “why Plato is a jerk.” It's about trying to understand him and to reason within his system of thought. When students don't read and don't respect the framework of discussion, they abuse the privilege of a democratized classroom. We all do this every day. I begin to think we should rewind and refocus our energy on actual learning, with lectures, lectures, lectures, if students won't take responsibility for learning themselves.

Outside of the classroom, students, to put it briefly, do not participate in Student Union (SU). SU will consider decreasing the number of seats in the Senate from 27 to 19 because they can't even get enough candidates to run for 27 seats. They get write-ins that don't even show up. I won't say that it's any fault of ours that a general political apathy, especially on small-scale things like SU, pervades the campus, nor will I say that we should be setting fire to buildings far more regularly. Issues just aren't hot anymore.

But we should remember that our campus is far more democratized than we think. We complain about a fascist administration, the constant rise in tuition, the school planting tulips all the time and ripping us off. That's why SU is there—to fight against the oppression of students by an administration that in reality has all the control. SU is in place for us to protest these issues, but the best we get is columns.

*Dennis is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a Forum Editor. He can be reached via e-mail at [forum@studlife.com](mailto:forum@studlife.com).*

## OPPOSABLES



J.K. ROWLING

Harvard's Commencement speaker.



MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

University of Pennsylvania's Commencement speaker.



MUHAMMED YUNUS

MIT's Commencement speaker.



BOB GELDOF

Vanderbilt's Commencement speaker.



BOB WOODRUFF

University of Michigan's Commencement speaker.



CHRIS MATTHEWS

Wash. U.'s Commencement speaker.

*-Compiled by Jillian Strominger*



# SCENE

## The who's who of STUDENT UNION

BY SAM BAIER  
SCENE REPORTER

Between the recent elections and the restructuring of the Student Union Executive Branch, understanding who's doing what in Student Union can be difficult. As the official voice of the student body and the decision-makers behind \$2.1 million allocation budget for student groups, those elected to Student Union (SU) have an immediate impact on students' lives. In order to better understand who those people are and what they do, here is an all-inclusive guide to Washington University's Student Union.

"The Student Union has gone through several iterations, but our current con-

stitution is modeled after the federal government. You have the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch," SU Senator Colin Towery said.

With the inauguration of the members of the YOU slate, the executive branch will be comprised of the following officers: a president, Brittany Perez; a vice president of administration, Jeff Nelson; a vice president of finance, Yewande Alimi; a vice president of programming, Grant Barbosa and a vice president of public relations, Neha Tibrewala.

The president is responsible for coordinating with the Washington University community and the surrounding municipal governments, and for appointing representa-

tives to University committees. Each vice president's job is defined by their title.

Pending approval from the legislative branch and review by the judicial branch, the executive branch will also contain executive committees which will be responsible for carrying out certain legislative decisions.

The legislative branch of the Student Union is comprised of the Treasury and the Senate. It is the Treasury's responsibility to work with the vice president of finance and prepare the general budget, and then allocate money as groups or events arise throughout the year. The Treasury has 19 members and two committees—the Budget Committee and the Student Group Ac-

tivities Committee, or SGAC. In addition to drafting the overall budget, the Budget Committee also reviews general budget policies and recommends allocations. SGAC acts as a liaison between student groups and the Student Union, and offers new student groups assistance and advice on how to get started.

The Senate is comprised of 27 members proportionally elected from the University's five undergraduate academic schools. It is tasked with improving campus life and responding to larger issues that affect the student body. There are three committees in the Senate: Academic Affairs, University Initiatives and Campus Services. The

Academic Affairs Committee handles the educational concerns of students through programs like the Student Union Readership Program. University Initiatives is involved with campus issues like sustainability and sexual assault prevention, and Campus Services works with details of student life, including food services.

Senators are elected in the spring and fall, so only half of the body is up for election at any time.

The judicial branch is made up of the Constitutional Council and the Election Commission. The Constitutional Council is responsible for overseeing the workings of the Student Union and providing judgment in case of unforeseen circum-

stances.

"One issue that came up last year was that a senator was elected in the engineering school and transferred to the business school, and she asked Constitutional Council to decide if she could continue her term as an engineering senator or if she had to resign," Towery said.

The goal of the Student Union is to improve the experience every student has at the University. Every official has been elected to respond to your concerns. If you're interested in Student Union or would like contact information for those listed above, go to su.wustl.edu to learn more.

## WORD ON THE STREET

—Compiled by Katie Gallagher

### "What is your opinion of Student Union?"



"I think that even though SU occasionally gets a bad rep around campus, most people involved are trying to improve campus life."

-Dione Drew  
Sophomore



"What do they do?"

-Meredith Lanzen  
Freshman



"It seems like [outgoing SU president] Neil Patel is doing a lot of good things."

-Jon Peters  
Sophomore



"I think Student Union does more work than they're recognized for."

-Lyudmila A. Shemyakina  
Junior



"I think Student Union is a great thing. It teaches us how to build a community."

-Jay O'Brien  
Junior

### MATTHEWS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

good for the University to focus on people who have stronger ties to the University and [who] aren't mass-market Commencement speakers," Patel said. "Someone who has a strong connection with the University, who can share in our experience, can be an effective and motivational speaker."

In addition to political issues, Patel hopes Matthews will address the broader role of college graduates in the world today.

"I hope [Matthews] will be speaking about what role we can play in the U.S. as a whole, not just in the political arena," Patel said. "What

he thinks the biggest challenges we face as students are, how we've been prepared for that."

In recent years, Commencement has featured other political figures such as Tim Russert, host of NBC's "Meet the Press" and former British Prime Minister John Major. Patel says that the University should not rely on the assumption that speakers involved in the political sphere will increase political involvement on campus.

"I don't think it's an inappropriate choice, but we shouldn't have the expectation that having Chris Matthews at Commencement will

make people more politically involved," Patel said.

According to Patel, many students had listed former Vice President Al Gore as their first choice, but they understand the difficulty of bringing such a figure to campus.

"My top choice was Al Gore. That was the top choice of almost every other student [on the selection committee]," he said. "Al Gore is a dream speaker. We knew there was a good chance he would not come."

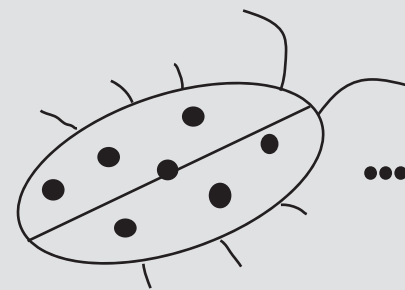
Matthews has appeared on NBC's "Today" show and has also spoken at several college campuses. Before working at

MSNBC, Matthews worked as a reporter at the San Francisco Examiner and under former President Jimmy Carter. Matthews has also published four books.

Patel says that Matthews is still a good choice for a Commencement speaker because he can draw on those experiences to comment on the world that graduates will enter.

"He may be meant to push seniors to action," Patel said. "It's a way to incite people to do something, to change the worlds they are about to enter. That's the goal of any speaker."

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# CADENZA

## Casino King: the real story of MIT whiz Jeff Ma

BY CECILIA RAZAK  
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

You probably don't know what Jeff Ma looks like, even if you've seen the new movie "21" about a group of MIT students who take Vegas for hundreds of thousands of dollars. In fact, you've probably never heard of Ma, even though he was a real-life MIT student who, with a group of other math prodigies, took Vegas for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The film, based on Ma's team's experiences, documents the tale of young MIT hot-shot Ben (played by Jim Sturges) who, in order to earn his Harvard Graduate School tuition money, joins the MIT blackjack card counting team. In the film, Ben meets the most fabled of creatures—an attractive female math whiz—and has rip-roaring Vegas adventures, coming out on the other end slightly scuffed but wiser, richer and much more popular. Of course, everyone knows Hollywood likes to take liberties.

Jeff Ma didn't start out as a high-rolling, confident card counter; I sat down over the phone with the previous mechanical engineering major and asked him about his meager beginnings.

"I have very conservative Chinese immigrant parents who are very much about education," Ma said.

When he was asked to join the team, initially, he says, "I was definitely reluctant to get involved—it just didn't seem

like something that was on the up and up, going to a casino and betting professionally as your career."

He was approached by the team "because of [his] demeanor."

Ma was a friendly and lively student, both useful traits in the vigorous and demanding world of for-profit card counting at casino blackjack, but not enough by themselves to make an expert player.

"I needed to evolve into a very outgoing, energetic and boisterous guy" to become "a good blackjack player," Ma said.

The place itself was overwhelming for Ma as a newcomer. "The first time I walked into a Vegas casino, it was sensory overload—the cash, the chips, the sound—there's no clocks anywhere; you're not prepared to deal with it until you are actually there."

Eventually, as he began to get good at the game, "the immoral feeling went away," Ma said, careful to iterate (as is the film) that "card counting is not illegal." Indeed it isn't—it involves no actual breaking of rules but simply the ability to keep track of the cards which have and haven't yet been played. To do this, it helps to have a knack for numbers, so it is unsurprising that the members of the group were MIT students.

"MIT is full of very inventive, smart kids," Ma said, who are "willing to think outside the box and so brilliant they can't get out of their own way."

When a few students called film producers to pitch the idea, the moviemakers, upon learning the locale of the callers, thought they were being pranked. "They just didn't believe it was real," Ma said. Fortunately, the students were able to convince the filmmakers, and Ma's story has become widespread.

The casinos, however, were aware of Ma and his team long before the movies were.

"The casinos got clued in because they started recognizing the same people always gambling together at the same tables, working together as a team. They watched us like hawks everywhere we went and everywhere we did. It's not illegal, but casinos have the right to refuse service to anyone they want," he said. "It's like high priced buffets don't serve people who eat a whole lot."

That said, Ma was able to earn thousands of dollars in a single weekend at card counting: "I won so much money... One time, the casino took all the dollars we earned and gave us store credit, so I bought tons of electronics, flat screen TVs for my friends, all sorts of things. We were comped so many things and ended up earning money and getting all this free stuff. Having that much money is liberating, I didn't have to worry about the money I made, I was able to pursue all the things I wanted to pursue."

But being back at school was like inhabiting a different

world: "I would go to Vegas and earn \$100,000, but in Boston I would contemplate spending \$20 on a cab or \$1 for the subway."

The casinos eventually caught on and Ma weathered some cinematic adventures of his own—at one point he was even "chased off a riverboat and followed home" by casino flunkies.

Ma no longer plays blackjack because he just doesn't "want to deal with the hassle" of being booted from the tables and being "yelled at" by casino big-wigs. He is, however, successful and not just because of his MIT degree. "I was applying for a job as a Wall Street stock trader, and I had a little bullet point at the bottom of my resume that said 'card counting skills.' The interviewer asked me to expand and loved it. He thought it was the most interesting thing on the page."

Even if the film does give its lead character a three-act story and a girlfriend, Ben and Ma's were "very similar experiences," Ma said. "The story line and plot line are very different, but the things that happened to him are very similar to the things that happened to me." Mostly, these include the outrageous amounts of money amassed and the amount of taxes paid on it.

You may not remember Jeff Ma in "21" (he plays a dealer whom main character Ben calls his "brother from another mother"), but Vegas won't forget him anytime soon.

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

## arts & entertainment

## In defense of: Papa Roach

BY STEVE HARDY  
CADENZA REPORTER

Papa Roach has weathered a lot of flack over the years, most of it undeserved (although, admittedly, "Scars" is a maudlin, pathetic attempt at a power ballad). Listeners have accused them of selling out, and generally consider the members illegitimate rock stars; nothing could be further from the truth. The band brought us such mosh-alongs as "Last Resort," "She Loves Me Not" and "Getting Away With Murder."

A lot of abuse comes from listeners who still think that Papa Roach is Nu-Metal and thus cannot progress beyond obnoxious Fred Durst-esque rapping. It's true that initially

frontman Jacoby Shaddix did (on occasion) sing in a rapid and staccato style, but it was always within the framework of a cohesive melody. Think more Zack de la Rocha (of Rage Against the Machine) than Mike Shinoda (of Linkin Park).

Furthermore, in nearly every song produced in the past five years, the band has gotten closer to their Hard Alt roots where they produce their most quality work. The best such example might be 2002's "Love-hate-tragedy" on which Shaddix mixes minimal "rapping" with tuneful sung melodies amidst the band's straight-ahead power rock. On the song "Black Clouds," Shaddix even verges

See PAPA ROACH, page 10



Papa Roach attends the Spike TV Video Game Awards in Santa Monica, California, December 14, 2004.



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**B-52s**  
*Funplex*

**Rating:** ★★☆☆☆  
**Tracks to download:** "Juliet of the Spirits," "Love in the Year 3000"  
**For fans of:** B-52s



**R.E.M.**  
*Accelerate*

**Rating:** ★★★★★  
**Tracks to download:** "Accelerate," "Man-Sized Wreath," "Sing for the Submarine"  
**For fans of:** "Monster"-era R.E.M.

## B-52s: 'Funplex'

**BY STEPHANIE SPERA**  
MOVIE EDITOR

"Do you want to listen to the B-52s' new CD?"

"Who?"  
"The B-52s. You know, they had a lot of hits. Love Shack. Rock Lobster... I think they were in the Flintstones movie."

My friends and I were in the middle of our, 'Oh crap, it's Sunday night and I haven't done any work this weekend' homework session, when I decided to put on the B-52s' first release in 16 years, "Funplex." (I know you're asking yourselves, 'Wait, what's going on? Isn't it spelled B-52's? Where'd the apostrophe go?' Well, after what I am assuming was countless years of debate, they dropped the apostrophe when they released their new CD.) After listening to about six tracks, one friend dropped her English homework, and with a manic look in her eyes, screamed out, "I want to kill myself."

I'm pretty sure that's not what the B-52s intended.

Guitarist Keith Strickland describes this album as "loud, sexy rock & roll with the beat turned up to hot pink." And, sadly, hot pink is no 11. But, that ridiculous statement almost accurately epitomizes their album.

"Funplex" is loud (if you turn the volume up), overtly sexual ("There's a rest stop/ Let's hit the G-Spot" is repeated 13 times in "Ultraviolet"), a little bit rock and roll (much like Donny Osmond) and very, very strange.

If you just finished that pornographic screenplay set thousands of years into the future, but can't find the right mood music, look no further. The B-52s have written the soundtrack.

In "Love in the Year 3000," Fred Schneider, master of the sprechgesang (half-talking, half-singing), exclaims, "Tenta-

tive tentacles are grabbing me. We're making space love, in zero gravity." In "Deviant Ingredient," Schneider rejoices, "I am now an erotocist! I am a fully eroticized being!" So yes, one good thing about this album: It solves where the B-52s have been for the past 16 years. In a crack-den.

Schneider channels his inner Howard Dean in "Keep This Party Going," "Let's party in Athens! London! ..." and 15 cities later, he even includes the infamous "YEAHH!!!"

And the lyrics only get better: in that wonderfully licentious song "Deviant Ingredient," Schneider then prophesizes, "There's a daisy chain, in the drive-in lane. They do the slow boog-a-loo and the shangalang. It's the ying and yang. Shangalang. Slow boog-a-loo. Is what they do."

Ten of the 11 songs could be mistaken for Love Shack. The beat is similar, and the ratio of Kate Peirson's singing to Schneider's crazy voice is the same, and you hate yourself the equally for nodding along the music.

One stand-out track is "Juliet of the Spirits." Maybe it's the lack of Schneider's sprechgesang (my new favorite word), but this is arguably the best song on the "Funplex." Don't worry, this girl-power anthem still contains sexually charged lyrics. But, unlike the other tracks, this song is a successful transition into today's pop-rock world.

Why even give "Funplex" two stars? The B-52s know how to write catchy-hooks and phrases that you can't help but sing along to. And, the lyrics are, albeit extremely bizarre, relatively entertaining. If you like Andy Samberg's digital shorts on Saturday Night Live and just pretend that the B-52s' "Funplex" is actually a comedy album, you may like this CD.

## R.E.M.: 'Accelerate'

**BY STEVE HARDY**  
CADENZA REPORTER

R.E.M.'s newest album "Accelerate" does exactly that.

Recalling their upbeat hits of the late '80s and early '90s like "Orange Crush," the vanguards of modern alt-rock craft a tuneful collection sure to please fans disappointed by the band's last release, 2004's lackluster "Around the Sun." Their most recent offering features 11 catchy and compact songs (only two are over four minutes), rife with hooks and bouncy bass lines.

R.E.M. enters their 14th album invigorated and fresh, and frontman Michael Stipe matches the band's tenacity in his lyrical approach to "Accelerate." Producer Jacknife Lee put the band on a strict—and tight—three-week recording schedule.

Stipe told a "Spin" interviewer, "The pace forced me to kind of spit stuff out...we spent less time making this record than we have in 20 years."

Perhaps the last decade of the group's releases have suffered from over-thinking and over-producing. Kudos to the ensemble for returning to their essence; after all, the best thing that can be said of "Accelerate" is that it sounds like the earlier R.E.M. who everyone fell in love with. "Believe in me, believe in nothing./ Corner me and make me something./ I've become the Hollow Man I see," he belts on "Hollow Man," a thinly

veiled apology for R.E.M.'s recent flops.

However, while the band does celebrate a fresh restart, Stipe shines as a singer most when he's spewing about apathy (anybody remember "Losing My Religion?") and inequality. "Turn on the TV, / and what do I see? / A pageantry of injustices / all lined up for me. / Ow!" he cries at the onset of "Man-Sized Wreath."

And while "Accelerate" is most praiseworthy for its up-tempo tracks, there are a few notable slower songs. "Sing for the Submarine" is a fantastically eerie minor-key creep, with a high, jagged guitar line constantly threading among the lyrics like shafts of light piercing the waves above.

Ultimately, "Accelerate" is its biggest asset is the same feature which holds it back.

The recent Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees rework their former magic but do not bring anything new to the table.

R.E.M.'s new album is a modern alt-rock gem, sure, but it still falls short in comparison to their earlier albums such as "Green." Taken as an end unto itself, the album shines, but the listener must wonder if R.E.M. missed an opportunity to forward their sound.

However, now that the band has rediscovered their voice, fans can reasonably hope for another few decades of hits.

A caveat: "I'm Gonna DJ" is the only real slouch on the album, but geez, is it awful.

## PAPA ROACH ❖ FROM PAGE 9

on lifting from Blade Runner with the line "Tears fall just like rain," and anyone who can pull off Rutger Hauer lines is a rebel.

Sure, the music is somewhat predictable and most of the songs' lyrics concern either being alone or abusing alcohol (sometimes both!), but everyone needs something that's just loud, fast and angry every now and then. Hell, the Ramones built their entire career of that mix, and people still wear their merch! Papa Roach's songs carry themselves with a sensible unpretentiousness that gives all listeners the chance just to vent their misanthropy. If you want to challenge yourself, listen to Zappa or Captain Beefheart, but if you're just looking to have a good time getting high off being down, give the Roaches a spin.

However, every music aficionado knows that, ultimately, it's foolish to judge a band just on its sound.

I could learn three chords and B.S. my way alongside half the bands in the country, but that alone wouldn't make me a rock star. Rather (and this is very important), we must not merely measure a band like Papa Roach on the merits of its music but on the music we associate with its appearance and lifestyle. I wouldn't go so far as to say Nikki Six should watch his back, but the boys of Papa Roach have put a lot of wear on their bodies.

Shaddix told MTV of an early gig, "I was just frustrated from playing in front of rows of chairs every night with 40-year old guys with their arms crossed going, 'We want Ozzy, we want Ozzy.' There was one show where I was so sick of the crowds it made me want to just destroy them. So I pulled my pants down, [deficated] on a towel and threw it into the crowd because that's how I felt about the show."

Throwing poo. You know who throws poo? Monkeys and rock gods, and I'm sure if you sequenced Shaddix's DNA, he wouldn't be a monkey. And while "Scars" might be a pathetic song, it actually has a charming story. That "scar" required 11 stitches to Shaddix's head, due to undisclosed "self-mutilation." To the head!

Meanwhile, guitarist Jerry Horton got engaged to a Playboy centerfold, and former drummer Dave Buckner married into one of rock's greatest families. He became, for a time, Steven Tyler's son-in-law, wedding Tyler's other daughter, Mia.

However, in all seriousness, Papa Roach's detractors have not, in most cases, actually gone through the band's archive. If you just know this band as the guys who wrote "Last Resort" and "Scars," you owe it to yourself to pick up "Lovehatetragedy" and listen to a hard rocking band at the top of their game.



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- 7 - Tau Kappa Epsilon

##### Field Event Winners

- SHOT PUT: Buckner/Phi Delta Theta and Canali/PT! 10 (W)  
DISCUS: Machan/Phi Delta Theta and Canali/PT! 10 (W)  
HIGH JUMP: Tappin/Phi Delta Theta  
LONG JUMP: Tracy/Alpha Epsilon Pi  
TRIPLE JUMP: Richardson/WUPT!10 and Tracy/Alpha Epsilon Pi

##### Track Event Winners

- 400M RELAY: Alpha Epsilon Pi  
1600M RUN: Beyer/Sigma Phi Epsilon  
400M DASH: Galkin/Independent  
100M DASH: Johnson/For The T-Shirts  
800M RUN: Fiore/Sigma Phi Epsilon  
200M DASH: Johnson/For The T-Shirts  
3200M RUN: Van Orden/WUPT!10 & White/Sigma Phi Epsilon  
1600M RELAY: WUPT! 10 & Sigma Phi Epsilon

### City Coffeehouse & Crêperie

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[prepared with white flour or 100% Buckwheat organic flour], homemade pastries, sandwiches, salads and soups.

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MON - FRI. 6:30AM - 4:00PM  
SAT. - SUN. 7:00AM - 3:00PM  
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Sat: 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-4pm



# CLASSIFIEDS

FREE Classifieds	Line Ad Rates	Placing Your Ad	Deadlines
<p>Classified ads are free to students, faculty and staff for personal use.</p> <p>To place your FREE 25-word ad, simply email us from your WU email account.</p>	<p>Rates listed below are for businesses or individuals not affiliated with WU.</p> <p>1-5 issues: 50¢ per word, per issue 6-9 issues: 40¢ per word, per issue 10+ issues: 30¢ per word, per issue</p>	<p><a href="http://www.studlife.com">http://www.studlife.com</a></p> <p>For the fastest and easiest service, place and pay for your ad online!</p> <p>Click on the "Classifieds" link on our website to get started!</p> <p><b>Email: <a href="mailto:classifieds@studlife.com">classifieds@studlife.com</a></b></p> <p>Don't forget to include a contact number so we can confirm pricing &amp; payment!</p>	<p>In order to be published, all ads must be placed and paid for by:</p> <p>Mon. edition: 2 pm Thurs. Wed. edition: 2 pm Mon. Fri. edition: 2 pm Tues.</p>
Classifications	Terms & Conditions	<p><b>Phone: 314.935.6713</b></p> <p>Prefer to speak with someone? Call us to place your ad by credit card!</p> <p><b>Fax: 314.935.5938</b></p> <p>Don't forget to include a contact number so we can confirm pricing &amp; payment!</p>	
<p><b>Help Wanted</b> <b>For Rent</b> <b>Roommates</b> <b>Sublet</b> <b>Real Estate</b> <b>For Sale</b> <b>Automotive</b></p> <p><b>Wanted Services</b> <b>Tickets</b> <b>Travel</b> <b>Spring Break</b> <b>Lost &amp; Found</b> <b>Personals</b></p>	<p>There is a 15-word minimum charge on all classified ads.</p> <p>The first three words (max. one line) are bold and capitalized. All ads will appear on studlife.com at no additional charge.</p> <p>Please check your ad carefully on the first day of publication and notify <i>Student Life</i> of any errors. We will only be responsible for the first day's incorrect insertion.</p>		
Payment		<p>All classified ads must be pre-paid prior to first insertion by credit card, cash or personal check. Checks should be made payable to <b>WU Student Media, Inc.</b></p>	

## HELP WANTED

EARN \$800-\$3200 a month to drive brand new cars with ads palced on them. [www.AdCarClub.com](http://www.AdCarClub.com).

HELP CHILDREN TO Learn Math and Reading. Kumon Ladue Center ([www.kumon-ladue.com](http://www.kumon-ladue.com)). Immediate openings for graduates and undergraduates. \$11-\$17/hour. Call 314-993-9192 or send resume to [tdk@cse.wustl.edu](mailto:tdk@cse.wustl.edu).

KEMPER ART MUSEUM hiring for immediate start and summer break opportunities. On-campus museum. Flexible schedule. Fun environment. Contact [kemper-jobs@gmail.com](mailto:kemper-jobs@gmail.com).

## FOR RENT

2 & 3 BEDROOM apartments. 2 bath. Full kitchen/appliances. Internet, see more [www.homeandapartmentrentals.com](http://www.homeandapartmentrentals.com). Please contact us by calling 314-409-2733

GORGEOUS, HUGE HOUSE for rent. 4-bed room, 2-bathroom, 2 car garage. On McPherson within walking distance to Washington University. Brand new kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops, hardwood floors throughout, wooden privacy fence, screened in back porch, all new windows and alarm system. A must see. Please contact us via phone at 314-608-2692.

## FOR RENT

A BEAUTIFUL 3-BR apartment with washer/dryer in the apartment itself. Updated huge kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances updated bathroom. Two bathroom also available. Off-street parking, hardwood floors. Enormous 1800 square foot unit on one of the best streets in the Loop! 314-608-2692.

CLAYTON, U. CITY LOOP, CWE, and Dogtown. Beautiful studios, 1, and 2 bedrooms. Quiet buildings. \$425-\$750. Call 725-5757.

## SUBLET

PERFECT SUMMERSUBLET next to Forsyth metro! 5 minute walk from main campus! Safe neighborhood. Eateries near by. 3BR, 1.5 BA. Only \$400 + utilities. Contact [ccyu@wustl.edu](mailto:ccyu@wustl.edu).

SUMMER SUBLET: A great, cozy room with cool roommates. Great location on Forsyth: close to metro and campus. GOOD PRICE. Call Dan for more info: 314-518-7902.

SUMMER SUBLET: 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom, hardwood floors, one bedroom furnished, furnished living room, kitchen, and dining room. Great location - walking distance to main campus, on Forsyth Blvd. Email [jbballer@wustl.edu](mailto:jbballer@wustl.edu).

## ROOMMATE WANTED

FOR SALE: CLAYTON 2BR/2 Bath condo. 7571 Wellington Way. Elevator, garage parking, new baths. Great price: \$174,900 for great space and location! Stephanie Bemberg: 314-602-2153.

HOUSE FOR SALE: 5 minutes from both Danforth and Medical Campus. Call Sean at 314.494.2259 or visit [www.1119childress.com](http://www.1119childress.com).

QUAINT 3BR/2BA house available for ren or for sale for 2008-2009 school year. Near North campus. Great investment. 6258 Cabanne. Owner/Agent 314-608-2692.

## FOR SALE

FRONTENAC ESTATE SALE: Friday and Saturday 7:30-4PM, 18 Terrace Gardens, 63131. Antiques galore, Depression Glass, China, Henderson Furn, drop-front secretary, bedroom and living room sets, fire-side stool, Harrison Fisher Books (1908), tools, collectibles, much more. Cash only, please.

## AUTOS

2004 CERTIFIED PRE-owned convertible BMW. Green with tan interior. 39K miles, 100K mile warranty! Looks/runs like new. Super clean. Contact Amy Sears at [amycbg@yahoo.com](mailto:amycbg@yahoo.com) or 314-971-0971.

## WANTED

\$5000 PAID EGG donors. +Expenses. Non-smokers, ages 19-29, SAT > 1100, ACT > 24, GPA > 3.0. Reply to: [info@eggdonorcenter.com](mailto:info@eggdonorcenter.com).

THE WASHU CO-OP is looking for performers for our Monday night cafes. All are welcome. Please inquire at [thecoopcafe@gmail.com](mailto:thecoopcafe@gmail.com).

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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 Monday's puzzle

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

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## Crossword

ACROSS

- Bart or Belle
- Falls back
- Thick piece
- Alphabetical quintet
- Spring forward
- Land of Lima
- Provisions
- Moral fiber
- GA city
- At that place
- Marvel Comics man
- Scottish sculptor Paolozzi
- Dime
- Tabitha's TV grandmother
- Compulsions
- Compassion
- NYC opera house
- Ernie of golf
- Pages
- Freon or neon
- Function
- "Waterloo Bridge" painter
- Spring from
- Clan pattern
- Detergent additive
- Central theme
- Breeds of hunting dogs
- Active people
- Boxing Day mo.
- Four parts
- Footwear
- Sitcom award
- Stead
- \_\_ cotta
- Week elements
- Stitched
- Slammin' Sammy

DOWN

- Took a load off
- Golfer's peg
- Volleyball filler
- Woods, as livestock
- Yale booster
- Deflected
- Take to the tub
- Hasty drivers
- Propagate
- Luau garland
- Knack
- Purchase
- Struggler's sound
- Writer Deighton
- R-V connection
- Wright and Brewer
- Fishermen
- "\_\_ Frome"
- Iceberg alternative
- Wardrobe assistant
- Mare's morsel
- Monica of tennis
- Glee club voices
- Hides
- Schubert's "\_\_\_ at the Spinning Wheel"
- Shoshone
- Estate
- Certifies under oath
- Hosp. sections

**Solutions**

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

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the student union

Your Executive Officers

President Neil Patel

Vice President Brittany Perez

Treasurer Marius Johnson

student union  
your student government<http://su.wustl.edu>

# SU UPDATE

**4.02 AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK**  
**FREE BAGEL @ THE UNDERPASS**  
**8:45-10 AM**

**4.03 AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK**  
**COLD STONE CREAMERY FUNDRAISER**  
**LOOP 6-9 AND BRENTWOOD ALL DAY**  
**PROCEEDS GO TO CLICK**  
**RAINMAN IN URSA'S @PM**

**4.04 CARNAVAL: DE PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS**  
**(OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)**  
**EDISON THEATRE**  
**FRIDAY 8PM**  
**SATURDAY 7PM**

**4.05 AED PRESENTS: JUMPSTART MY HEART**  
**FREE CPR CERTIFICATION**  
**10:00 AM-12:30 PM OR 1-3:30PM**  
**LOPOTA GREAT ROOM**

**Recyclemania! Grand Champion**

**WashU ranks 50/72! Remember to Recycle!**

**EASTERN REVIEW IS NOW AVAILABLE  
 ONLINE THEEASTERNREVIEW.COM**

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 HTTP://STUDENTVOICE.COM/WASHSTL/SU  
 TREASURY08**

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 events advertised here?  
 Send the information to  
 secretary@su.wustl.edu  
 on Sunday before 2pm!**

Find out more about what's going on in Student Union @...

**SU.wustl.edu**