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Phi Delta Theta responds to members' homophobic statements with education

BY PERRY STEIN
NEWS EDITOR

Phi Delta Theta fraternity has taken an opportunity to

educate its members about cultural diversity and homosexuality following an incident in which three of its members shouted obscene and homo-

phobic words out of the fraternity house's window.

"[We are] taking the opportunity to educate ourselves so there are not issues like this

in the future," Phi Delta Theta President Zach Mandel said.

On Saturday, March 29, senior Mingyang Toh was playing tennis with sophomore David Weisshaar when three members of the fraternity interrupted their game with repeated homophobic and discriminatory slurs. Several minutes after the slurring began, Toh called WUPD.

"It was annoying at the beginning but then it slowly escalated, so towards the end it started to become hurtful," Toh said. "Speaking out against it is part of my responsibility as a member of the community. There could be other people that would be hurt to a larger extent than I would be."

The WUPD officers allowed the perpetrators to turn themselves in and left Phi Delta Theta to handle the matter internally.

"There has been a lot of aftermath within our house," Mandel said. "A lot of things have happened all on our own accord. The members will not be allowed to attend spring

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Business School to offer major in healthcare management

BY DAN WOZNICA
STAFF REPORTER

The Olin Business School will be offering a new undergraduate major next semester in "healthcare management." The program will include courses taught by professors from both the business and medical schools.

"Healthcare is a very important component of our economy and of the global economy," Mahendra Gupta, dean of the Business School, said. "Our students in the Business School and at Washington University will benefit tremendously from an understanding of healthcare issues and how they affect business."

Business School Professor Barton Hamilton and Bruce Hall, a medical school professor who also has a master's degree in business administration, developed the program. Hall said that he has long envisioned the development of the major, which he said has become a reality because faculty resources and student interest have reached a critical mass.



COURTESY OF MUSTL PHOTO SERVICES

Bart Hamilton

"It's always been my opinion that we ought to be devoting more effort to education around the healthcare industry," Hall said. Hall, like Gupta, mentioned the importance of healthcare in the business sector. "The healthcare industry, if you hold out the military-industrial complex, is the largest

See OLIN HEALTHCARE, page 3



LUCY MOORE | STUDENT LIFE

At the Phi Delta Theta house on the upper fraternity row, an incident involving obscene shouting occurred this past weekend. The fraternity addressed the problem with education about cultural diversity and homosexuality.

Students dissatisfied with lottery numbers

BY MELANIE SPERGEL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Residential Life randomizes its lottery system for housing selection in order to ensure that residents who receive a high number once may fare better during the next year's process.

Some students, however, are claiming that their current positions in the lottery were hardly changed from last year. Sophomore Jessica Stigile says that the difference between her and her friend's numbers may not have changed since last year's lottery.

"We were somewhere between 10 and 15 numbers apart last year and we were 11 apart this year," Stigile said. "I remember thinking it was odd last year that our numbers were so close, so it really stuck out this year that our numbers were so close again."

Residential Life (ResLife) uses a computer program to process the lottery numbers. All students receive a general lottery number that is used in the North Side Round (the Second Round) and the South 40 round (the Third).

According to the ResLife Web site, the random numbers given to students are a function of their housing level—or how long each student has lived in ResLife housing—and where the student's number ranked the previous year within their housing level. The real value of the numbers varies depending on the round in which the student participates.

"In round one, the Residential College round, the numbers are random," Cheryl Stephens, associate director of residential life, said. "In Round Two they are based on seniority—the longer you live with ResLife the better—and in Round Three [we use] the

same lottery numbers as in round two, but the order we assign is reversed."

But despite ResLife's assertions that number assignments are arbitrary and that students who receive a bad number one year will receive a better one the next, Stigile said that many of her friends also found that their rank within their respective housing levels remained the same.

Even so, Stephens was not surprised to hear that there were many upset students.

"I'm sure there are several students out there who would tell you that they have had bad lottery numbers for more than one year," Stephens said.

The method of assigning numbers has been modified over the years in response to students' complaints and ideas. ResLife began reversing the numbers in Round

See LOTTERY, page 2

The new news: Journalism 2.0



MATT LANTER | STUDENT LIFE

A panel of speakers discussed social media with students on Thursday night, focusing on social networking tools, such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace and their role in journalism. The discussion also included segments on blogging and the involvement of readers in contributing to articles.

Many lenders leave student loan market

BY EMILY WASSERMAN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

With college costs on the rise, finding ways to pay for secondary education has become harder with three major banks announcing they will not offer any new federally-subsidized student loans.

HSBC Bank USA, M&T Bank Corp. and TCF Financial Corp. all announced that they will

not offer federally subsidized student loans, also known as Stafford Loans.

The three banks were among the 50 top lenders of subsidized student loans and issued more than \$560 million of loans in 2006.

HSBC Bank Manager of Public Affairs Francine Minadeo said in a statement that HSBC Bank USA decided to leave the student loan

market because of many factors including the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, passed in 2007, which reduced how much lenders made from the loans.

"After careful consideration, HSBC Bank USA N.A. will discontinue its Federal Family Education Loan program. This was a business decision based on a variety of factors including changes

made in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007," Minadeo wrote.

Loans that have already been issued will not be affected by the announcement.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which was the largest of its kind since the GI bill, also added funding to the federal Pell Grant program and reduced the interest rates that can be

charged for subsidized student loans.

According to Bill Witbrodt, director of student financial services, more than 3,200 undergraduate and graduate students at Washington University used Stafford Loans last year.

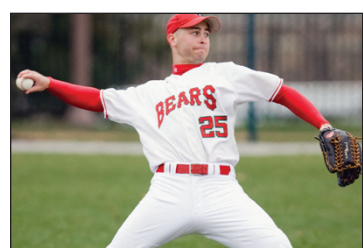
Witbrodt said in an e-mail that while the University cannot point families toward specific banks, it can help

families research their options.

"The University cannot recommend lenders of Stafford loans to students; however, the University researches the available Stafford loan options and provides a list of the options with the most favorable terms for students' consideration," Witbrodt

See LOAN MARKET, page 2

And these belong to the Bears!



The baseball team is hot on a three-game winning streak. Read all about it and their tough upcoming doubleheader. **Sports, Page 6**

When the stars collide...



Get a behind-the-scenes look at a Rolling Stones concert through the eyes of Oscar-winning director Martin Scorsese. **Cadenza, Page 7**

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Pulse

Compiled by Perry Stein and Dan Woznica

Friday, April 4

Lee/Beau and Ruby/Umrath "Concrete Appreciation" BBQ

Lee/Beaumont and Ruby/Umrath Residential Colleges will host a "Concrete Appreciation" BBQ with Ted Drewes Frozen Custard on the Swamp at 4:30 p.m. Brookings and Wayman Crow Residential Colleges will then offer a "Parking Lot" BBQ with carnival games on the Brookings Patio.

Olin Business School Casino Night

The Olin Business School will be hosting Casino Night tonight at 8 p.m. in Simon Hall. Students can gamble for free with a chance to win prizes such as a Playstation 3, Nintendo Wii, iPod and 32" flat screen HDTV.

Saturday, April 5

American Indian Awareness Week Pow Wow

As a part of American Indian Awareness Week at Wash. U. the 18th annual Pow Wow will be held today from noon to 10 p.m. at the Athletic Center. At 1 and 6 p.m. there will be dancers and the arts and crafts booths will open at 10 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

ALAS Carnaval

Carnaval, the Association of Latin American Students' (ALAS) cultural showcase, is showing tonight and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Edison Theatre.

Sunday, April 6

The Gargoyle Cursive Concert

The Gargoyle will be presenting indie band Cursive with opening bands Capgun Coup and So Many Dynamos. Admission is free with a Wash. U. ID, \$15 to the public. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Must be 18+ to enter.

LOTTERY ❖ FROM PAGE 1

Three in an effort to better suit the needs of the different classes.

"We know that most of our upperclassmen generally want to live on the North Side and our underclassmen want to live for the most part on the South 40," Stephens said. "It doesn't mean we don't have both on each side, but the numbers are drastically smaller."

Despite the potential for

misgivings over the lottery system, there is no formal way to file a complaint with ResLife.

"We are willing to hear student complaints, but we feel that this is as fair a system as possible and will not make changes based solely on student complaints," Stephens said.

Harvard computer hacking incident raises questions about University's own system

BY SCOTT FABRICANT
STAFF REPORTER

Harvard University's graduate school application system was hacked in late February, revealing social security numbers and other personal data. The fallout has raised questions about Washington University's own security system.

After the incident, Harvard offered identity theft recovery services at their expense for the approximately 6,600 people affected. Services include obtaining credit reports, credit monitoring services and fraud alerts.

"Hackers were successful in gaining access to the server by taking advantage of certain technical vulnerabilities," Joe Wrinn, director of news and public affairs for Harvard said. "Guarding against hacking is a constant battle as hackers con-

tinued to challenge and occasionally breach security systems. We have removed the sensitive information from the server and identified and corrected the vulnerabilities."

Andy Orstadt, the associate vice chancellor for technology and information services at the University, said he believes the University's information is not compromised in the same way as Harvard's databases and, as a result, the incident has not changed data security at the University.

"We should all be concerned about security, but I don't have any reason to think we're vulnerable in the same way Harvard's system was. I wouldn't specifically look at it and say students should be concerned about that happening here," Orstadt said. "I can't point to a specific change we made other than to maintain

[security] as a priority." Orstadt also noted that a more common risk to personal security is not large-scale system hacking, but personal carelessness.

"We're always interested in making sure people understand the role they play in security by taking care of passwords and user IDs, and making the passwords hard to guess and not sharing IDs," Orstadt said. "That happens more frequently than I'd like it to, and it's a common way [for] people to get access to information they shouldn't have access to."

According to Orstadt, security will always be an important issue at a large institution.

"We're always looking for ways we can upgrade. It's an evolving thing," said Orstadt.

PHI DELT ❖ FROM PAGE 1

formal, and the judicial board will be meeting to consider expulsion from our fraternity."

Although there are no recent records of any similar incidents occurring within the Greek community, Ryan Henne, director of Greek Life, said that when problems arise, the Greek Life Office (GLO) typically implements educational measures.

"Whenever Greek Life receives a report like this, we immediately contact the chapter and find out what happened," Henne said. "Most of the time all of our sanctions are educational."

Toh hopes that the GLO will enact an official policy regarding such discriminatory incidents so that all members will understand the consequences of using homophobic language.

"I think the fraternities should have a fixed policy and the policy should be made clear to all members when joining," Toh said.

Mandel said that while his fraternity takes responsibility

for the actions of its three indicted members, the organization does not share or condone the views that those members expressed last Saturday.

"This is not an action of our organization; it was an action of the three individuals," Mandel said. "We try very hard to make sure that we are represented on campus by those who uphold the dignity of Phi Delta Theta, and the actions of these members have ruined this for the time."

The GLO has set up an educational workshop, scheduled for next week, which will include campus professionals from the Diversity Working Group, a coalition dedicated to teaching students about diversity.

Coordinator for Student Involvement and Multicultural Leadership Naomi Daradar-Sigg says that she, along with LGBT Coordinator Mike Brown and Julia Macias, academic coordinator in the College of Arts & Sciences, will facilitate discussions about diversity and tolerance.

"We want to have a dialogue about the incident, the Wash. U. community and how they can move forward from this in a positive way," Daradar-Sigg said.

Daradar-Sigg added that this is a necessary conversation and is one that affects the whole campus.

"This is a wake-up that it's not just this one incident that needs to be addressed," she said. "We live in a multicultural world that we need to learn to navigate through."

In spite of the poor choice made by the indicted fraternity members, Henne said that their slurs do not reflect a sentiment shared by Greek Life as a whole.

"We do have men and women [in fraternities and sororities] who are gay," Henne said. "I would not say that homophobia runs rampant in Greek organizations. I hope that the action of one or two individuals does not impact the opinion that the University as a whole has of the 1,700 members involved in [Greek life]."

LOAN MARKET ❖ FROM PAGE 1

wrote. Witbrodt said he believes that students at the University will not have a problem despite the three banks' discontinuing their programs. "I think our students will continue to have the ability to borrow Stafford loans with

the most favorable terms because Washington University student loan borrowers have extremely low default rates," Witbrodt wrote. "[They are] among the lowest in the country."

Witbrodt also wrote that additional lenders are likely

to leave the market before it stabilizes.

Due to the changes the University made to its recent financial aid policy, eliminating student loans for low-income students, there will not be many students affected by the change.

"Many of our new and returning students won't be affected by the decision because of Wash. U.'s new financial aid policy that, beginning this coming academic year and depending on a student's financial situation, replaces student loans with

grants," Witbrodt wrote.

According to Witbrodt, the University will look at individual cases if the banks' departures cause issues.

"We will continue to work individually with our students and their families to make sure that sufficient financial resources are available so that new students can enroll and returning students can continue their studies here to eventually graduate," Witbrodt wrote.

CORRECTION

A sports photo caption in the Wednesday, April 2 issue track photo mistakenly stated that both the men's and women's team came in second at last weekend's WU Invitational meet. In fact, the women's team won its meet while the men finished fifth.

Student Life regrets the error.

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Political groups maintain activity in between primaries

BY EMILY WASSERMAN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In the midst of a long gap between presidential primaries, student supporters of presidential candidates are searching for opportunities to stay involved in the race.

The Missouri Republican State Convention, to be held this weekend in St. Louis, is one such event that hopes to energize the college demographic.

"[The event is] a chance for Missouri College Republicans to come together to take care of some business, like electing officers, and to have fun," junior Charis Fischer, president of the College Republicans, said.

College Democrats President Ben Guthorn, a sophomore, also cited several ways for students to stay involved in the primary season, including CNN pundit Paul Begala speaking on campus on April 19. Guthorn hopes that Begala will "shed light on the primary season."

The College Democrats also try to perpetuate involvement by phone banking for democratic candidates on Sundays.

One of the most active political groups on campus,

Students for Barack Obama (SFBO) has also continued its activity in between primaries. Junior Jessie Arber, an Obama supporter, has participated in multiple College Democrat meetings and SFBO phone bankings.

"Since the Missouri primary, we've been encouraging phone banking," Arber said. "I predict we will do more phone banking as we approach the April 22 Pennsylvania primary."

Arber also mentioned a possible SFBO trip to Kentucky in the wake of the state's May primary. Even though that contest will take place after the end of the school year, as a local student, Arber says that she will try to organize other students remaining in St. Louis for the summer.

"I'm from U. City, hence Kentucky is an optimal destination for canvassing," she said. "Also, parts of it—the parts I'd most likely be going to—are near Arkansas, and may feel a pull towards Clinton because of this proximity," Arber said.

Senior Angela Bingaman, another SFBO member, finds an outlet for her political activism between primaries by educating youth about the

political process.

"I work for a [not-for-profit] organization called Civitas Associates. We work with high school students in the St. Louis area and teach them about government, citizenship and voting," Bingaman said. "During the primary season, we really stress how important it is to vote in not just the general election, but the primary election as well."

Both Bingaman and Arber also participated in the campaign to help nominate senior Matt Adler as a Missouri Delegate for the Democratic National Convention this August, an opportunity that excited Bingaman.

"I helped Matt Adler secure the position as Missouri's Obama delegate for the Third District by fliering for him outside of the election," Bingaman said. "I got to meet an array of important Democrats in Missouri and schmooze Matt's name, image and position all the way to the win. I can't wait until he represents us in Denver."

Jordan Aibel, co-founder of Students for John McCain, said that his group is folding into College Republicans due to McCain securing the Republican nomination. While

most of the College Republicans' election events will be held during next semester, Aibel has been taking individual efforts to campaign in the meantime.

"I have been writing letters in support of the Senator and compiling a fundraising e-mail list through various individuals I know with connections to the Republican Party. This summer I hope to e-mail each of those individuals asking for their support for Senator McCain," Aibel said.

While not directly related to the campaign, Campus Crossfire, being held on April 14, is a political debate between students from different groups that is sponsored by the College Democrats every semester.

College Democrats Vice-President sophomore Becky Hufstader wants students of all political backgrounds to take part in the primary season campaigning.

"The College Democrats run the whole gamut to promote local awareness. We want people to get involved in politics outside of the Obama and Hillary division," Hufstader said.

OLIN HEALTHCARE

❖ FROM PAGE 1

industry in the country."

The program will consist of three new courses: Health, Economics and Policy, Healthcare Management and a research seminar course, which along with Olin Grand Rounds—a lecture series in the business of medicine—will comprise a "core" curriculum for the program. This core will be supplemented by several other business and medicine courses, including some in the science of medicine.

The focus of the program will be on healthcare economics, policy, management and research.

Gupta said that the program's approach will concern both broad issues relevant to healthcare in general and specific topics that arise within the field.

"Our students will learn about many macro issues—the policies surrounding healthcare, why they arise, the way they arise and different organizational entities and interest groups," Gupta said. "On a micro level, students will learn how healthcare organizations

work, whether it be a hospital, an insurance company or a pharmaceutical company."

The courses will be open both to students enrolled in Olin and students outside the school, who may choose to either major or minor in the program. Students who choose to major in the program will participate in faculty-guided research on issues relevant to healthcare management, while those completing a minor will also have the option of participating in research projects.

"By the time the students come out, we would like them to have a great appreciation for business and management issues that surround healthcare, and also the great opportunities that lie in finding a career or creating a business there," Gupta said.

Both Gupta and Hall expect the program to grow in the future.

"We hope that with every semester that goes by, we'll be able to expand course offerings and involve even more faculty," said Hall.

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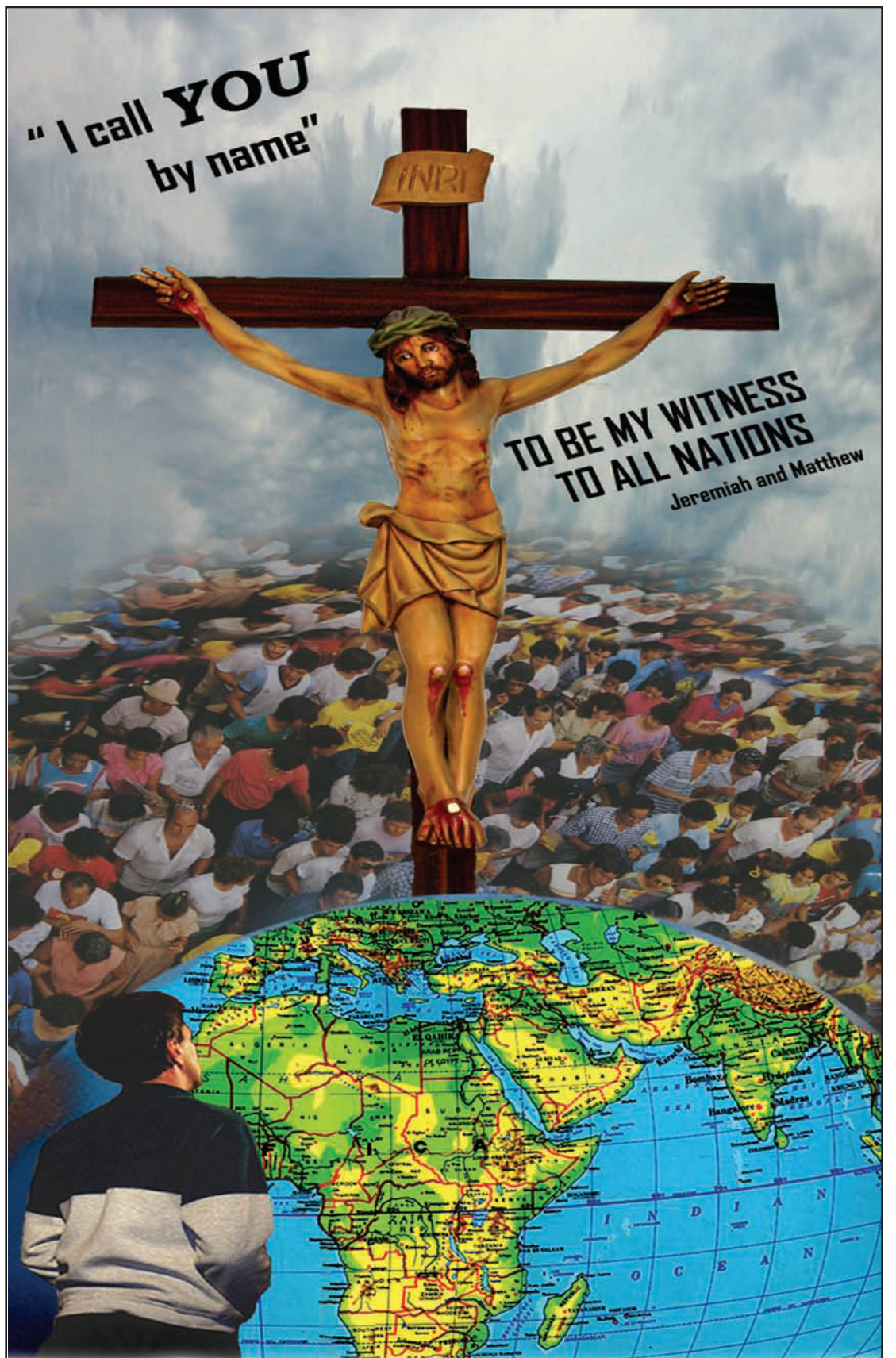
Briefs

Two charged in case of 14-year-old stripper

Two people have been charged in the case of a 14-year-old girl who worked for two days at a Lexington strip club last month. Tina G. Hobbs, 32, was charged Tuesday with third-degree unlawful transaction with a minor. Hobbs' boyfriend, Jimmy R. Kiger, was arrested Wednesday afternoon on the same charge. Hobbs is the girl's paternal aunt. The juvenile worked for about two days at Camelot West until she was caught by her mother, Kimberly Comley, and stepfather on March 11. Comley called police after she entered the club and saw her daughter sitting at a table in a dance outfit. Comley said her daughter might have the figure of an older girl, but "looking at her face, she looks like a baby." "She don't even look 15," she said. (MCT)

Southwest could face another big fine over inspections

Under tough questioning from Congress, top federal regulators admitted Thursday to an embarrassing, years-long breakdown in their oversight of Southwest Airlines. The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) top safety officer, Nicholas A. Sabatini, acknowledged that "we didn't know the gravity of what was going on" in the Irving, Texas office supervising Southwest. One FAA manager fought with other supervisors and repeatedly blocked his inspectors' investigations of the airline. The FAA admitted to serious lapses only a day after asserting that its oversight model was strong. Dallas-based Southwest faces a \$10.2 million fine for its role in the controversy. (MCT)



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We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Revitalize commencement speaker selection

The past few years, students have been largely unhappy with the Commencement speakers selected by the University. Already this year, many students have expressed pronounced disappointment over this year's speaker choice, Chris Matthews. The frustration is no surprise given the negative reactions to last year's speaker, Tim Russert, who is similar to Matthews in many ways.

Recently, the University has chosen to bring a series of political speakers to campus to speak at graduation and in other capacities. It is time for the University to consider a new type of speaker, and it should do so by more actively engaging the student body in the selection process.

Chris Matthews will speak at Commencement after a series of other political pundits and personalities. The past few years of Commencement speakers have included Tim Russert (2007), Sir John Major (2006), Richard Gephardt (2005), Thomas Friedman (2004), and Madeline Albright (2003).

In 2002, seniors heard from Ruth Simmons, the president of Brown University who had recently been named the best

college president in the country by TIME Magazine. This is the most recent time Wash. U. selected a speaker who was not purely political. While Russert, Major, Gephardt, Friedman and Albright all certainly had different messages, they are related to politics. Simmons, on the other hand, represents a choice of speaker who could talk to students about issues outside of the political arena.

While it's true that political speakers have important messages to share with students, Wash. U. has recently overdone on political commentators. This year's seniors have experienced a presidential debate and had a chance to hear from an array of political speakers through the assembly series.

The number of students studying political science and active in politics does not justify the focus on political speakers. With so many talented and interesting individuals contributing to our society from areas other than politics, Wash. U. should be able to select a speaker, to motivate students, who is different from many of the other speakers students have had the chance to listen to throughout their collegiate experience. Hearing

Chris Matthews speak just isn't a capstone experience—he is similar to speakers students have heard time and time again throughout their years at Wash. U. (and, in fact, Matthews has already been here within the past four years).

Unfortunately, Chris Matthews has already been selected to speak at Commencement, so students upset over the choice have no ability to influence the administration. However, we can ensure that the University is informed of student opinion about the graduation speaker before it selects one by more actively participating in the selection process.

A call has already been issued for input in Honorary Degrees in 2009, meaning that the process for choosing a speaker has started. Students should take part in this process and submit names for speakers they would be interested in hearing. Students should think realistically about submitting names of speakers who might actually have time to speak at a graduation ceremony. Students should also think creatively about who could deliver a fresh message of inspiration.

Only by being proactive can we affect the decision of who

will speak at our respective graduations.

Finally, the administration should take a larger role in empowering students to help choose their speaker. The current process has been poorly publicized, making it effectively unavailable to most students. Commencement is an incredibly important moment in students' lives and the speaker should be someone the students want to hear. Student enthusiasm is invaluable to the success of a speaker. The process for student nomination of speakers should be well publicized, easy, and important in the decision for future Commencement speakers.

This year's speaker selection was an unfortunate choice by the administration given the current climate at Wash. U. But future classes should be able to avoid the disappointment of this year's class if the administration does a better job soliciting student input and if students fully take advantage of the power they have in influencing the speaker selection. In the future, let's do our best to make sure Commencement exercises reach out to the graduating seniors.

The best article ever

BY TOM BUTCHER
STAFF COLUMNIST

First, a question: How many times this week have you heard someone describe something as "the best ever" or "the worst ever" or, perhaps, "the hardest test of all time?" In everyday speech, people, especially young people, tend to use the superlative often. To be sure, the superlative has its appropriate uses, but its increasingly chronic overusage is becoming indicative of a trend in our mindset towards absolutism.

Grade school grammar teaches us that there are three degrees of linguistic comparison: the positive, the comparative, and the superlative. The positive degree employs no comparison at all, merely making an evaluative statement based on the item we are analyzing. "This test is hard," we might say. The comparative degree marks a distinction between two separate items and determines which of them more closely fulfills the properties of that distinction. Consider the sentence, "This test is harder than the last test." The superlative degree is normally used to establish a hierarchy of three or more items, taking the top position. Consider: "This test was the hardest test all semester." These are the normal uses of the degrees, and they are vital tools when used with an appropriately bounded comparative set, that is to say, when the number of items is precisely known.

The problem, however, comes about when the superlative breaches that bounded comparative set. This is identified by the use of trailing modifiers like "ever" or "of all time" in sentences like those shown in the first paragraph. These temporal modifiers expand the domain of compared items into the infinite in a dramatic attempt to convey, for example, just how hard that test really was. Not only was it harder than any other test this semester, it was also harder than any other test that has ever been written, or that ever will be written. Presumably, the only test that could ever be harder is the one coming up next week.

Now this presents a logical quandary: How do we know that this test is the hardest of all time? Naturally, we can't. Even if we could know, would the test actually be the hardest ever? I'm guessing not. So, in that sense, this "infinite superlative" degree is inherently incorrect. But logical correctness aside, this manner of speaking brings up a much more distressing issue.

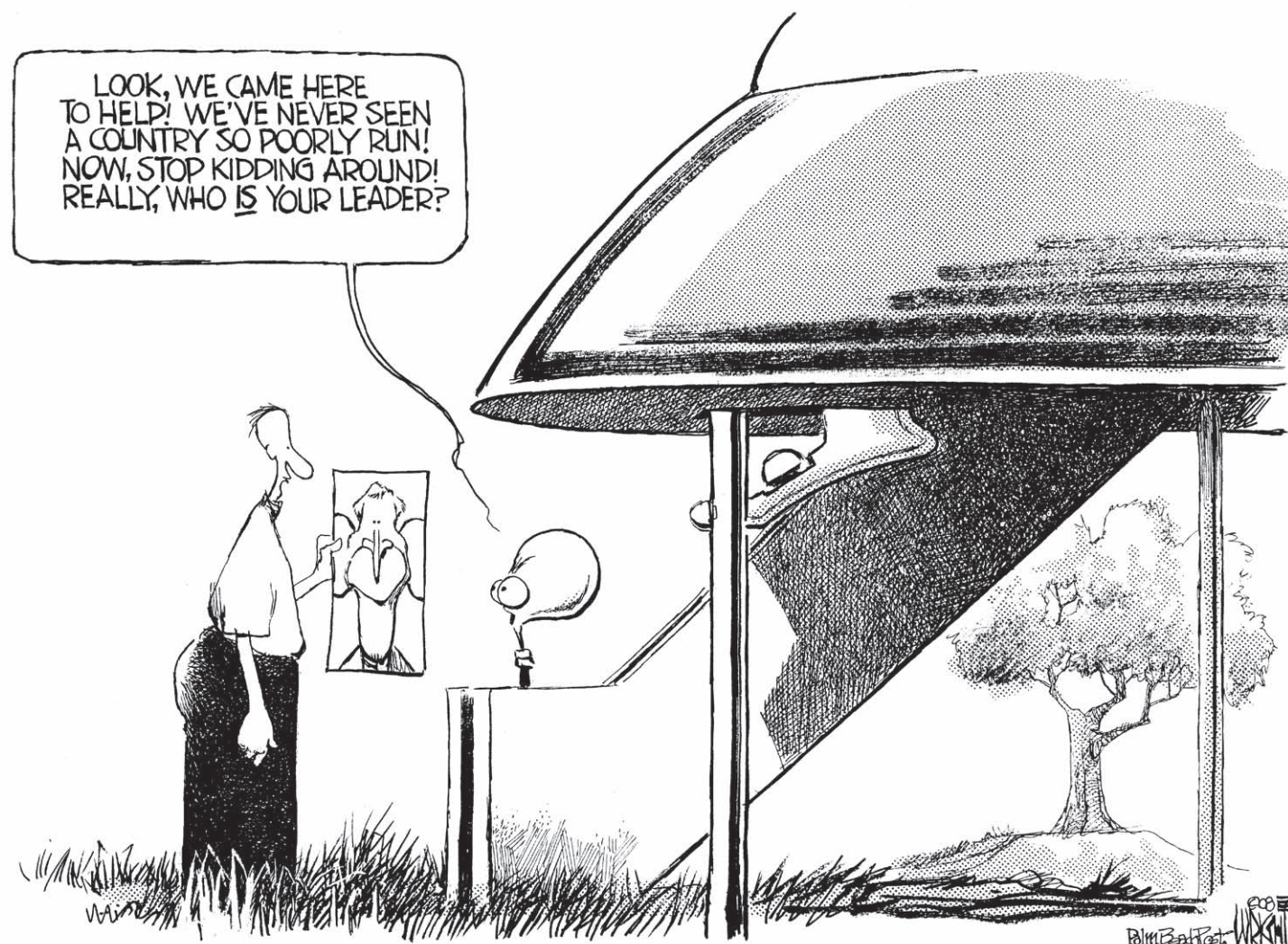
The purpose of the comparative and superlative degrees is to make comparisons among different items. In order to make an accurate comparison, all of these items must be known. If the set of compared items is extended into the infinite, then no actual comparison can be made. The superlative is thus transmogrified from a comparative into an absolute statement.

"Okay," you might be saying at this point, "so slang is destroying grammar. Big deal, that's nothing new. Why does this matter?" It matters because grammar and thought have a reciprocal relationship. That is to say, how you speak affects how you think, and how you think affects how you speak. As you get more and more into the habit of referring to everything as the "best ever" or the "worst ever," your capability for comparative thought is gradually eroded. Everything becomes an absolute, turned up to the nth degree. With no proper basis for comparison, everything begins to look the same, and the mind gradually loses its capability (or, at least, its proclivity) to make evaluative statements.

This plays out in the public sphere when we begin to emphasize the absolute, rather than the relational, importance of this or that. To use everyone's favorite political metaphor, the shades of gray are reduced to black and white. In the war on terrorism, you're either with us or against us, because it's our way or the highway, and freedom is the only way. And remember: If you question the government, then you're a terrorist. This grammatical and logistical malady is not limited to Republicans either, although the current

See BUTCHER, page 5

MCT | editorial cartoon



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chris Matthews: it could be worse

Dear Editor:

Let me start off by saying it could be worse. Yes, I already saw Chris Matthews on campus when I was a freshman, and yes, there is a strong chance I will fall asleep if I have to listen to one more political speaker at this school. I admittedly would rather hear someone like J.K. Rowling, Muhammed Yunus, or especially Stephen Colbert (who would be way too much fun for this school to consider anyway). But at least we don't have the CEO

of Bob Evans as our Commencement speaker (The Ohio State University), or the crossword editor of the New York Times (Indiana U.). Considering I have to take a huge breath before telling anyone the name of the university I attend, and then receive a blank stare after I do, Chris Matthews is a big name to have speak at a school whose publicity as a top-tier academic institution has been mild or nonexistent. At the very least, the current and past Commencement speakers have been famous enough to

draw attention to our school, something I think it desperately needs.

-Justin Lawler
Class of 2008

Re: Papa Roach

Dear Editor:

Steve Hardy's article provides a pathetic defense for the incredibly lackluster band Papa Roach. It shocks me that Hardy could call lead singer Jacoby Shaddix's throwing feces on audience members "rock star" behav-

ior. While much rock star behavior is immature and inane, this act was utterly subhuman. Such antics and the dreadful music that they surround merit criticism, not defense, in the pages of *Student Life*.

-Brent Rubin
Class of 2010

Political Involvement

Dear Editor:

I have had the opportunity to see what a lively and active place Wash. U. can be

when we have events such as the 2004 Presidential Debates come to campus. I think that during these times we see that the Wash. U. student body absolutely has the potential to be a politically active and engaged campus. I think that the University, as a center for higher learning, has an obligation to facilitate student involvement in our democracy even between debates.

A great way to do so would be to amend the speakers policy to allow political candidates of all stripes come speak on cam-

pus. Furthermore, in order to increase civic involvement on campus the University must contribute to the voter education/protection process every election cycle and actively work to register students as articulated by the Student Civic Initiative. For this reason I very strongly support the work of the Initiative and encourage the administration to treat the students as empowered players in our education.

-Ben Kastan
Class of 2008

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

Student Life welcomes letters to the editor and op-ed submissions from readers.

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One Brookings Drive #1039
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

News: (314) 935-5995
Fax: (314) 935-5938
e-mail: letters@studlife.com

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

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Once an article has been published on www.studlife.com, our Web site, it will remain there permanently. We do not remove articles from the site, nor do we remove authors' names from articles already published on the Web, unless an agreement was reached prior to July 1, 2005.

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America's Next Top Candidates



BY EVE SAMBORN
STAFF COLUMNIST

Tune in this season as two remaining contestants fight for the ultimate prize. They will vie for the affection of super-delegates and compete for the votes of Americans. There will be controversial pastors and live sniper fire...okay, forget the sniper fire.

It will be a grueling contest, one that weaker contenders would be tempted to quit. Yet these fierce candidates will continue to battle until August when the competition will culminate in a week of must-see television like nothing you've ever seen before.

No, this is not another bad reality television show. It's the presidential primary.

It has been three months since the Iowa caucuses and the Democratic presidential candidates are still front-page news. For a country that has demonstrated increasing ADD, it's remarkable that we're still paying attention. Who knew that

a quarrel between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama could attract more readers than a catfight involving Paris Hilton?

Political commentators are more excited about the prospect of a brokered convention than a three-year-old upon the discovery of Halloween. Forget candy, imagine the Nielsen ratings!

Campaign '08 might even be the best thing that's happened to pundits since the advent of cable. Never mind that dart-throwing monkeys could probably make more accurate predictions than Washington's talking heads have made this year. (Remember when John McCain was history?) It's April and we're still begging pundits to look into their crystal balls and tell us how this will end.

But this presidential campaign has been more than just a topic of conversation. Politics is not a spectator sport and America's renewed interest in democracy has been evident at the polls. Voter turnout, especially among college stu-

dents, has been impressive across the country, a trend that was certainly reflected at Wash. U. in February. Students voted in record numbers and, given the narrow margin of victory for both winners in Missouri, those votes were decisive.

As if record turnout were not enough, increased political involvement has taken other forms as well. I joined Wash. U. senior Matt Adler at the congressional caucus last week where he was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. The number of college students who came to participate in this obscure event stunned and impressed other caucus-goers. Adler's victory over established party activists is yet another sign that this campaign is bringing new people into the political process for the first time.

The University administration should take note of this trend and commit to promoting civic engagement on campus. Students have shown that they care about politics and should

be given more opportunities to get involved. The University should start by allowing candidates to speak on campus. This will help students cast informed votes. It should also expand voter registration and voter protection efforts to ensure that no student is disenfranchised.

Maybe it was just the writer's strike, and now Grey's Anatomy episodes will once again replace Barack Obama's speech on race as the nation's most-watched television. Or maybe we have finally woken up to the reality that our country is at war, our economy is in decline, our environment is threatened and our future is at stake. Maybe we have realized that this election is important and that our participation can make a difference. Either way, this is one season finale I don't want to miss.

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

Student apathy toward SU justified

BY DYLAN SUHER
OP-ED SUBMISSION

For weeks now, the editorial pages of *Student Life* have bombarded us with jeremiad after jeremiad scolding the student body for its ambivalence towards Student Union (SU) elections. All these editorials end up saying the same thing. They scold us for our apathy toward student government, but give us no reason to care. They tell us to support our student government, which is our voice because, well, it says it's our voice. They tell us that we should vote just because we can vote. They tell us to get involved just because we should be involved. But nowhere do they give a substantive examination of the very rational reasons why students may choose not to vote in SU elections or get involved in student government.

Perhaps students do not vote in student elections because they understand that their vote will not make any real difference in the way that SU affairs are conducted or SU funds are allocated. Perhaps students see a student government that, rather than being a representative body for student interests, is nothing but another administrative branch of the University, policed by University staff and ensconced in University buildings, with everything down to the last staple in the OSA office provided by the University. In this case, a student opposed to the current state of affairs would quite rationally decline to participate in the corporatist student union, hopelessly co-opted by the administration, that would never really dare to oppose

the University on anything important. They would quite rationally decline to vote in the superficially democratic farce SU conducts every year, understanding that they have no real choice in the direction of an SU that will never truly represent them. On the other hand, a student who supports the status quo would decline to participate in the government, since he knows that he can rely upon the administration, whoever it may be, to conduct business as usual. They would see no reason to vote, knowing that the outcome would never really change the way things are run.

In his editorial, published on April 2, Mr. Sweeney looks back at the events of May 1968 with a twinge of nostalgia for the days of vibrant student activism and engagement. I share his nostalgia, but I think that the example of May 1968 deserves closer examination. The students of May '68 did not sit in an air-conditioned, university-provided office and humbly petition De Gaulle for somewhat cheaper wireless internet on campus. Banding together with labor unions and professors, the students of May '68 faced police batons and even the military in order to fight for a change of their entire society. I wonder if there are any students at this University, in or out of student government, who care that much about anything at all. And if they do care about something deeply, would they be willing to really to take the risks necessary to fight for it?

Dylan is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at dylan.suher@gmail.com.

BUTCHER ❖ FROM PAGE 4

crop of neo-conservatives certainly provide ample examples. The Democratic hatred of Bush and everything he stands for has become an absolute. This was quite clearly shown during the 2004 primary season, which could be effectively summed up as a race to be the most in favor of what Bush was against. The dramatic failure of the Democrats in the 2004 election season demonstrates just how devastating this world view can become. If the Democrats manage to succeed this year, it will be because both potential nominees have shown a refreshing tendency to stray away from the absolute.

Am I saying that making "best ever" statements will suddenly lead to a conversion to neo-conservatism? Hardly. But statements like these show a distressing embrace of the

absolute when we should be grounded in the relative. As I said earlier, grammar reflects how we think, and how we think is reflected in our grammar. Whether this absolutism begins in the mind or in speech I cannot say, this differs on a case-by-case basis. However, when absolutism is present in speech, even in subconscious grammatical expressions, it is a dangerous omen that such thought will begin to infect the mind; or even worse, that it already has. Absolutism is responsible for many of the greater evils of mankind. If we can at least stop its manifestation in common slang, then I think we ought to.

Tom is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. He can be reached via e-mail at tmbutcher@gmail.com.

A not-so-juicy campus

BY MICHELLE ALBERT
STAFF COLUMNIST

By now, we all are well aware of certain guidelines regarding online etiquette and behavior. Do not give out personal information. Edit the pictures you post on Facebook, lest some future employer should check your profile and see you making drunken faces at the camera with a bottle of Jack Daniels in one hand and a plastic cup in another. And now I think we need to add another: do not post on Juicy Campus.

Juicy Campus is a relatively new Web site that advocates gossip among college campuses. With the guarantee that "posts are totally, 100 percent anonymous," Juicy Campus has already gained a sort of cult following among the select campuses on its list of networks. It has also already been banned by Pepperdine University.

When I first heard of Juicy Campus, I shrugged it off as just another place for college students to dish about who hooked up with whom and what really happened at last

week's frat party. That's really nothing different than what happens on campus. More often than not, conversations in Whispers or Mallinckrodt focus on some friend's messy breakup or who we aren't speaking to this week and why. Usually, it's pretty innocuous stuff, just speculation. But this gossip happens in a public forum, when identities cannot be concealed. Once online, in guaranteed privacy, the claws really come out.

A brief perusal of Juicy Campus revealed comments much worse than the usual lunch table gossip. The gossip for each school on Juicy Campus' list is divided into sections: faculty/administration, Greek organizations, overheard on campus, sports/athletes, spring break and students. But there is no actual division in the comments, much less any restraint. In the section for Vanderbilt alone I found posts that are racist, misogynistic and just plain cruel. Posters target specific students, organizations and even entire races. The "n-word" is liberally used. There are some posts that are complimentary,

but those are few and far between. Though I found one humorous post debating the hotness of our revered sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln—the poster commented on his tall hat—the majority of the posts are ridiculous, insulting and

“Just reading some of the comments on the Web site gave me a bad taste in my mouth; I can't imagine how someone would react if they were confronted about an insulting post.”

simply evil.

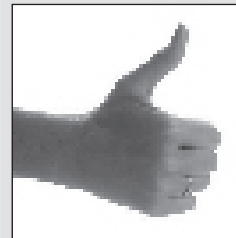
Are these really what students of a highly ranked university want to have attached to both their reputations and the reputation of their school? Even though the posts are anonymous, there are still means of finding out who said what. Just reading

some of the comments on the Web site gave me a bad taste in my mouth; I can't imagine how someone would react if they were confronted about an insulting post. But this goes deeper than just a lack of empathy, morality and common sense. How would you feel if you found a post insulting you? Or an organization you are affiliated with? It is a cowardly form of bullying, which is somewhat cowardly to begin with. Don't worry, kids, say what you want! Verbally attack the people you are too scared to personally confront, because it's "100 percent anonymous" and thus totally safe! Yeah, that's a great way to start a campus-wide forum.

Luckily, Wash. U. is not on Juicy Campus' list of schools to gossip about. And I hope it never makes that list. Let us rise above the petty name-calling, the racist remarks and the cruel insults. Not posting on Juicy Campus is truly the intelligent thing to do.

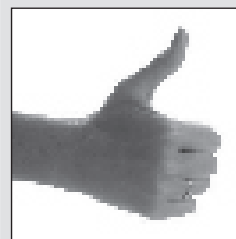
Michelle is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. She can be reached via e-mail at mgalbert@artsci.wustl.edu.

OPPOSABLES



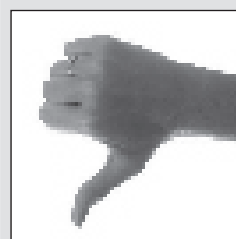
BASEBALL OPENING DAY

It's almost sunny enough to picture a white ball flying through the air, the crowd cheering, fans drinking beer and eating hotdogs...



COLLECTIVE NAP

It's probably safe to say that we all need a big ol' nap.



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

All of the sophomores are crying. And the freshman probably think this is how it always is. Poor kids.

- Compiled by Jill Strominger and Trisha Wolf

SPORTS

BASEBALL

Great pitching establishes three game winning streak

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University baseball now has a three-game winning streak after recording two wins on Sunday against Knox College and a win Wednesday over MacMurray College. All three games featured shutdown pitching from junior co-captain Brian Williams, sophomore Jeremy Rogoff and freshman David Liebman. The three wins put the Bears at 10-7 (3-3 UAA).

"Pitchers walk out on the mound, and they know they're going to get run support, so they pitch knowing that they're going to win," senior co-captain Dave Working said. "Every hitter can't wait to get up again because they're excited to succeed, not afraid to fail."

Williams pitched his second consecutive shutout in the first Knox contest, tossing seven innings of four-hit, six-strikeout baseball in the 9-0 win.

"I think it has a lot to do with the defense playing really solid, and I've finally gotten into a good rhythm while pitching," Williams said. "Getting ahead in the count, not walking people and trusting the defense to make plays has been important."

The Bears scored two runs

in the first inning with Gregg Kennedy, Zander Lehman and Matt Bayer hitting singles, along with two Knox errors. With the game 3-0 in the top of the fifth, Wash. U. plated six to put the game out of reach. Bayer recorded two hits and knocked in three in the game. Working also notched two hits and two RBIs.

The southpaw Rogoff continued Wash. U.'s dominance on the rubber in the second of two games, tossing all seven innings in a 6-1 win over the Prairie Fire; the run was unearned. Rogoff only surrendered two hits while walking two and striking out seven.

The Bears scored two in the second inning and three in the fourth to ice the game. Junior catcher Andy Webb led the offensive attack with one hit and two RBIs.

Wednesday's home game against the MacMurray College Highlanders proved to be a true massacre, which culminated in a 15-5 win in a seven-inning contest. Liebman picked up his first career win with 6.1 innings of five-run (two earned) baseball, striking out six and surrendering four walks and six hits.

With the game tied at one after three innings, Wash. U. scored five in the fourth, four in the fifth, and five in the sixth to put the game away.

Lehman, freshmen Matt Skinner and Travis May and sophomore Remy Midkiff each contributed two hits. Skinner and May led the team with three RBIs each. Junior Jerry Price also recorded two RBIs.

"The difference between our early season hitting and our success lately has been timeliness... People are really focusing at the plate, especially in important situations," Bayer, a freshman, said. "There are no weak spots in this lineup, and we have been just wearing pitchers out."

"The biggest improvement in our team recently has been the defense, and I think most of the success can be attributed to outdoor repetitions," Bayer added. "You can really see the fielders gaining confidence with each play they make."

The Bears are looking to return to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Central Regional for the fourth straight year and will be tested on the road next Tuesday in a doubleheader against DePauw University. The team will then end the week with a Thursday home game against Webster University.

"Winning is contagious. We lit a fire last weekend, and we expect to continue," Working said.



SCOTT BRESSLER | STUDENT LIFE

Senior co-captain Dave Working throws the ball from left field. Wash. U. is now on a three-game winning streak.

Athletics takes top spot in Division III

Washington University has recaptured the top spot in the Division III Director's Cup standings.

The Director's Cup recognizes the athletics program that is successful in multiple men's and women's sports. Points are awarded based on teams' final season finishes.

The Bears surged to the No. 1 spot backed by the men's basketball team winning their first national championship, a third place finish in women's track and field, a sixth place finish in women's swimming and diving, a 13th place finish in men's swimming and diving and a 17th place finish in women's basketball.

Wash. U. has 693.50 points. Amherst is in second with 647 points and Williams is now in third with 617.25 points.

Before this, the University's highest finish in the Director's Cup standings was third in the 2004-2005 school year.

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12 NR bts.

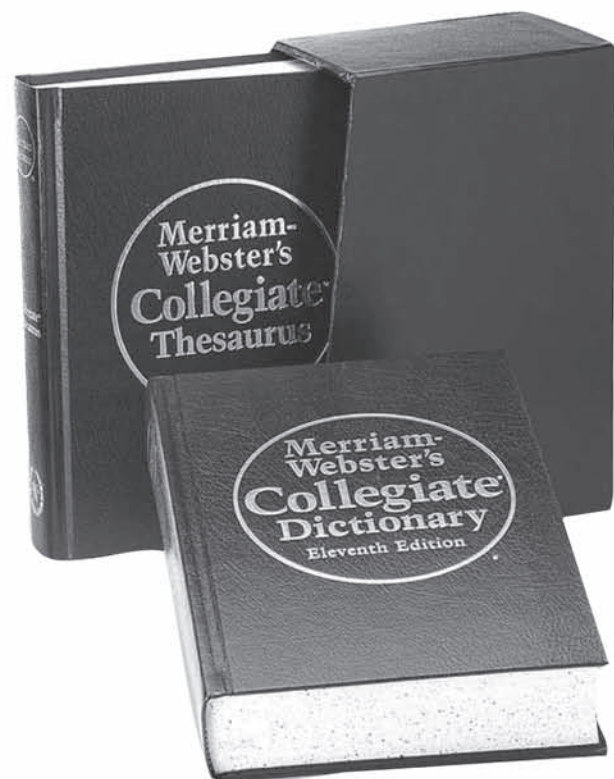
Jose Cuervo Black **\$18.49**
750 ml. btl.

Schlafly Assorted Varieties **\$11.87**
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arts & entertainment

'Shine a Light' on The Rolling Stones

BY BRIAN STITT
MANAGING EDITOR

The moment Martin Scorsese drops the audience literally into New York City's Beacon Theater for the first few notes of "Jumpin' Jack Flash" is one of the most invigorating and stunning sequences in Scorsese's long career. Even the energy of Keith Richards' guitar and Mick Jagger's growl cannot keep up with those of the filmmaker at points.

But, as the concert continues, the film becomes less about purely energetic filmmaking and rocking, although Jagger does seem to prance and dance at an inhuman constancy. Scorsese's documentation of a Rolling Stones concert in 2006 is not really so far removed from his seminal concert film "The Last Waltz" from 30 years ago, when he captured the Band's farewell concert; both

films are about looking back on successful careers and focus on the shared intimacy and artifice of a rock concert.

And yet, in "Shine a Light" Martin Scorsese is filming a band that has been together for 45 years. Even now, Mick Jagger remains an entertainer of unparalleled charisma and attitude, Ron Wood is as skilled a musician as he was when he joined the band in the early '70s, Charlie Watts is still shy, funny and filled with rhythm, and Keith Richards...well, what else can you say about him that hasn't been already?

The guitarist with a thousand stories wanders about the beautifully appointed stage slowly enough that Marty's team of top-notch cameramen (including four Oscar-winning cinematographers) can capture him in all of his rugged glory. His smile (almost certainly illegally enhanced) not only captures the joy Richards still finds in entertaining after so many years, but serves as emotional entrance to the band and the film.

We smile as well, not just because the Stones can still bring the house down with classics like "Tumbling Dice" and "Sympathy for the Devil," but because we get the sense that they actually still want to be on

the stage.

This shows through best in the three numbers featuring guest artists. While Christina Aguilera tries to oversing what is a delightfully dirty little number ("Live With Me"), she grinds believably enough with Mick that the song ends up working.

Jack White III (as he is calling himself these days) looks at Jagger with an almost scary adoration on "Loving Cup," but adds enough of his own personality to make it more than just a modern rock and roller's fantasy camp.

The truly inspired guest appearance is from Buddy Guy playing along on an old Muddy Waters blues wailer called "Champagne & Reefer." His piercing vocals are quite stunning, as is his riffing with Richards. It is the latter, though, that highlights the entire performance and the most endearing aspect of the film. Neither Guy nor Richards actually bother to play all the notes.

Scorsese and his cameras capture rock and roll in its most emotionally pure form. The artists on the stage are either having a great time or, in Mick Jagger's case, are totally within their element.

The Stones have sounded better before, and they've certainly looked better (the Imax format



(From left-to-right) Charlie Watts, Keith Richards, director Martin Scorsese, Mick Jagger and Ronnie Wood pose for a portrait backstage during filming of the Rolling Stones concert film "Shine a Light."

is not so friendly to the aging rock stars).

Even Scorsese cannot match the immediacy and power of "The Last Waltz." But the parts of the film that are not concert footage (the hectic planning stages, the archival footage spanning the Stones' career) all point to the Rolling Stones'

place as descending rock gods.

But it doesn't indict them for it; in fact it celebrates their experiences and continued livelihood.

This is not the best concert film Martin Scorsese has made, but it does go beyond just the recording of a concert: he touches on the humanity of the

musicians and the performance, while never letting the audience forget that whether on stage or in an interview, people as famous as the Rolling Stones rarely let their guard down.

It's all a bit of a show for them, but after almost 50 years, it still hasn't gotten old.

Shine a Light

Rating: ★★★★★☆

Starring: The Rolling Stones

Directed by: Martin Scorsese

Release Date: April 4, 2008

Tapes 'n Tapes: 'Walk It Off'

BY MATT KARLAN
CADENZA REPORTER

Tapes 'n Tapes have no band members with the last name Tapes, they instead have a reminiscent tale behind their moniker.

It begins when the members were still a bunch of innocent undergraduates rocking out at Carleton College, the rock mecca of Minnesota, outside of anywhere in Minnesota that has ever been visited by Prince.

They played a game to pass the time in which they would record little sections of tracks lasting no more than two minutes. One day the band noticed these cassettes piling up, and someone adroitly commented that they had 'tapes and tapes' of these tiny tunes. (A similar story can be attributed to Puff Daddy's original name, Boxes of Beats I'd Like to Steal as I Have No Discernible Talent of My Own.) The band then changed the 'and' in their name to the laziest conjunction around: 'n.

I assume this move was to either reap the indie cred boost that comes with poor diction or as a shout out to their favorite breakfast cereal commander of the seas.

Their new album, "Walk It Off," shows that they have remained faithfully indie.

No track besides the rousing, bass-coddling "Hang Them All" has any chance of commercial appeal. This sophomore release supposedly received far more

professional production than their 2005 debut, "The Loon," but that fact is consistently obscured.

Some tracks like "Demon Apple" and "Headshock" have corrosive instrumentals that sound as if they were recorded in a basement under a basement. Although many tracks overstay their welcome as the band plays with whatever new fun toys come with above ground production, the lack of vocal talent and catchy hooks show that the band is still the musical epitome of indie. (Of course the dispositional epitome of indie has been and always will be overwhelming pretension.)

This release should end the band's constant comparisons to another indie rock sensation, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, whose sophomore effort last year was marred by its egregious overproduction.

I didn't enjoy this Tapes 'n Tapes album in the least because its muffled sound gave me a splitting migraine and it had no song nearly as memorable as the standout of their first album, "Insistor." But I admire its shunning of mainstream ideals in order to appeal to the indie audience. The song "George Michael" embodies everything George Michael abhors; it has no flare, no joy, no unadulterated pep.

The album's final track, "The Dirty Dirty," repeats, "Where did our money go?" This seems to be a commentary on the

album's raw sound despite its professional recording.

I bet they spent the money on black jeans and vintage t-shirts, a blatant slap in the face to the establishment that signs their checks: checks that they spit on (then wipe off, cash, and use to buy more pants).

Pitchfork will certainly laud the band's fresh sound and they

will subsequently sell hundreds upon hundreds of tapes and tapes, which translates to double platinum in the indie world. And I will bypass the album in the record store as I rummage through the 'n section, hoping to secure a copy of the coveted Hall and Oates rap remix EP featuring Skanky Sara Smile.



Walk It Off Tapes 'n Tapes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Tracks to download: "Hang Them All," "Conquest," "Lines"
For fans of: Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, not George Michael



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Mike Doughty: 'Golden Delicious'

BY CECILIA RAZAK
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

Mike Doughty is best known as the front-man of the early '90s band Soul Coughing, which served up alternative electro-pop infused with everything from jazz to rock, DJ loops, and the sharp, spo-

ken-word poetry that became Doughty's trademark. Today Doughty has signed with ATO Records and has released his second solo album on this label, "Golden Delicious."

In this album, Doughty has moved away from the sound

See DOUGHTY, page 8

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BY STEVE HARDY
SCENE REPORTER

Networking is a lot like dating," Career Center Director Mark Smith explains. "You're always just looking for someone to introduce you." Indeed, networking is one of the most useful skills for students applying for graduate programs, scholarships and jobs. The Career Center's literature claims that about 80 percent of all jobs are found by networking, and as a recent poll of juniors and seniors indicates, networking is the number one career skill about which students want to learn. Often, students are unaware of their own connections. A family friend of junior Greg Duhart published a book. Duhart offered to help publicize in St. Louis and arrange for the author to come and speak. The author could not make it out here, but he passed along Duhart's name to another friend who worked in Duhart's field, eventually landing him an internship with the CIO of the Department of Energy. "Networking is not so much, 'I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine' as it is about paying it forward," he empha-

sized. "Do not underestimate people's ability to help." The Career Center staff agrees that often, seemingly unhelpful contacts can frequently point prospective interns toward professionals in their own fields. Smith advises networking students to ask first before name-dropping someone to a potential contact, but suggests absolutely using it to your advantage. It will make a letter or phone call stand out, and the professional will be much more receptive to helping. In case a student truly does not know who to talk to, the Center also has a database with over 8,000 parents and alumni who have all agreed to help students in various fields. For students interested in working outside the U.S., the study abroad office also has resources for employment, internships, and other opportunities. Making the first connection is difficult, especially if it goes unanswered. Career Development Specialist April Shinell advised students to "Be persistent. Assume that prospective networkers are just busy. Vary your approach—use e-mail, the phone and handwritten notes." Advisors at the Center are also available to proofread letters addressed to potential contacts.

However, even after being introduced, the prospect of selling yourself to strangers is daunting at best. Carol Moakley, a team leader at the Center, urged students to schedule "informational interviews," 15- or 20-minute talks with professionals in which they have the opportunity to ask questions such as: "What do you love about your job?" "How did you get here?" and "What are some current trends in your field?" McLellan adds that students should ask what classes and extracurriculars would best prepare them to work in that area. All agree that merely asking people to talk about themselves is the quickest way to both learn from and ingratiate yourself with a professional. "Don't ask for a job," McLellan advised, "Say that you're interested in learning about a position. When you are there to learn from someone else, they are naturally going to want to help you." Senior Brad Nelson, a freelance writer, has cultivated a valuable relationship with a family friend, which has not directly led to a job. "People want to make sure that the next generation in their field is talented, and they want to develop that talent," he said. His mentor has helped him hone his writing and meet others in the field of journalism, even getting him an informational interview with a professional at "Esquire." He made another important contact at a journalism conference with a writer at ESPN the Magazine. "Networking is about building relationships; it's symbiotic," Nelson says. His contact at ESPN helped him submit his work and eventually led to Nelson's publication in the magazine, which reflected well on Nelson and his mentor. It is also important to research the person and his company so that you can make

specific references to recent work and comment on how it meshes with your own interests. This is especially important when applying for research positions or otherwise working with professors. Shinell adds that it is useful for students to visit professors' office hours so that the first meeting is face-to-face and you can ask questions and demonstrate what the professor's work means to you. Smith says that it is not impolite to bring a cover letter, application or portfolio to an informational interview to ask how it can be improved. "I encourage students to think about networking as asking questions," McLellan said. She encourages students who already have jobs or internships to ask their bosses out for lunch or ask to accompany their supervisors to meetings. Everyone at the Career Center agreed that punctually following up after an interview was one of the most important parts of cementing a strong connection. A follow-up should thank the contact for his time and information, but it can work in other ways. Smith advises students to send an e-mail every three months or so to keep contacts updated, even if the student does not specifically need anything. This step maintains the bond and keeps this student in the back of employers' minds, which can come in handy if a job or opportunity opens up. Shinell advises that if a contact shares something personal, like loving a specific breed of dog, to try to mention that as well. However, it is always essential to remember that building a network is about building mutual friendships. Students should not expect to receive hand-outs, Nelson warns, but to build lasting friendships in and out of their field to whom they can turn for advice, guidance and maybe even a job.

Sleepy... Togetherness

BY MICHELLE STEIN
SENIOR SCENE EDITOR

One of the best parts of being a college student is the ability to take random naps. The sleep schedule of a college student is, quite frankly, a bit strange compared to the rest of the world. If a college student goes to bed by 1 a.m., that is considered obscenely early. It's also quite normal to find someone sleeping at 4 p.m., after class. However, some people are starting to take the concept of napping a bit further. All over campus, posters announce the coming of a new phenomenon: The Collective Nap. On April 5, a group of Washington University in St. Louis students will be camping out on a 60-foot blanket under the St. Louis Arch for a collective nap extravaganza. Interested students plan on meeting at the Big Bend MetroLink stop at 11:30 a.m. The nap itself is scheduled last three hours, from noon to 3 p.m. Students should keep in mind that the nap is "BYOP"—Bring Your Own Pillow. Also, wacky costumes, while not required, are encouraged. Why set up a collective nap for what is normally a solitary activity? Apparently napping on your own is not nearly restful enough. Or maybe, Washington University students have finally reached the point at which they are just too tired and too busy—even to take a nap. Despite the many reasons students have for participat-

ing in a collective nap, the whole revolutionary idea is, according to Ilyse Magy, a senior, pretty straightforward. "In theory it's as simple as it sounds. I've constructed a 60-foot blanket and people can lie down and take a nap. It's a sort of protest in the antithesis of a protest," Magy said. The collective nap-protest, according to the event's tagline, protests both everything and nothing. Magy, who has been throwing this idea around for quite a long time, said the collective nap is a sort of reframing for the ideas of Manifest Destiny and the antithesis for the Museum of Westward Expansion, located underneath the St. Louis Arch. A collective nap, according to Magy, is a chance to dream together underneath one of the American Dream's greatest symbols. "If people just lay down together and took a nap together things would be a little bit better. It's absurd and it's supposed to be [a] nice, absurd but really kind of necessary idea," Magy said. Magy, while admitting the bizarre nature of her event, also took pains to make it legitimate, as she assured those interested in participating that it does indeed have the required permit. There is no denying that Magy's senior sculpture thesis is an enticing idea. Considering how desperately everyone is in need of both togetherness and a feel-good nap, hopefully 60 feet of blanket will be enough.

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DOUGHTY ❖ FROM PAGE 7

of Soul Coughing he found so dissatisfying, a sound he mocked in a song as "yuka dee yuka dee waka waka we're so cool dee dee dee." He emerged with a more melancholic and introspective body of work with self-released albums like "Skittish" and "Rocky Roll" (which ramped up his indie songwriter cred), and took a decidedly poppy turn with "Haughty" (which earned him some hefty radio play and a gig on Letterman). Doughty devotees might expect "Golden Delicious" to continue on this divergent path, combining stock Doughty tricks with the new sound he's been fostering. And in some ways, it does. But this is certainly his most Soul Coughing-iest solo album yet (witness the weird and wonderful loops—a blossoming passion of Doughty's—on "More Bacon Than The Pan Can Handle"). That aside, he still wields words, in reliable Doughty fashion, as if they are instruments of their own. He spits out particularly tasty lines on songs like "Ft. Hood" (named for the Texan army base that has lost the most troops in the war) where he sings "I'd rather crank up the bass in a dark basement/ I'd rather leave the mobs and the murder in a foreign land." However, most of the album ("Ft. Hood" included) follows the big band, processed, poppy feel of "Haughty." Upbeat tracks like "I Just Want The Girl In The Blue Dress To Keep On Dancing" and a retooled "27 Jennifer" (the song's third release) are so buried in instrumentation that the lyrics are overwhelmed. Though the songs are clever and incredibly infectious—just try getting "Like A Luminous Girl[s]" ding-da-da-dings out of your head—they're absolutely bubblegum. Doughty is an emotional and lyrical mastermind, but you wouldn't know it from most of this album, if

only because his words are so buried under the drums and keyboards and backup singers and 76 trombones, give or take a few. But the album is redeemed from a life on one's "better-than-average pop" shelf by two excellent songs, stuck side-by-side near the end: "I Got The Drop On You" and "Wednesday (Contra La Puerta)." This is how Doughty should be: more refined than the grit of "Skittish" but less embellished than the sugarcoated "Haughty." In these songs, he lets the instrumentation set the stage but not take over, instead favoring his stark vocals and aching, mournful lyrics. Here we see some of the heaviest themes on the album (Doughty's former drug addiction) and hear some of the most delicious lyrics, with lines like "rattling their chains, and/ they long to snap the bonds and abscond out to the night." And only Doughty could use the term "easy Japanese" in a song as weighty as "I Got The Drop On You" and have it not sound silly but pointed. Don't pass these songs by if they don't catch you the first time; they blossom listen after listen, revealing their layers slowly, and they will stay with you far longer than any of the others. "Golden Delicious" is a weird mishmash, marching, it seems, to the tune of several different drummers, and is not Doughty's best. But even lackluster Doughty has proven worthwhile, and even if many of the songs don't have the raw emotion of his earlier work, they make for some witty head-bopping fun. The shortcomings simply make you wonder what the next album has in store, and though "Golden Delicious" may not be the best slice of apple pie Doughty is capable of serving up, it's certainly enough to whet the appetite while waiting for the next dish.

Mike Doughty
Golden Delicious

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Sounds Like: Soul Coughing

Tracks to download: "Ft. Hood," "I Got The Drop On You," "Wednesday (Contra La Puerta)"



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

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Crossword

ACROSS

- Bargain-hunter's dream
- Ferry, N.Y.
- Rowboat rower
- Frozen treats
- Down Under gems
- Jazz singing
- The one singled out
- Disturbed
- Traffic diverter
- Top-drawer
- Concoct
- "Beetle Bailey" character
- Flowerlike badge
- Worked for
- Military cafeterias
- "Barnaby Jones" star
- Penultimate round
- Tenth mo.
- Drove (a nail) obliquely
- Afternoon TV fare
- Lose vitality
- Collapsible bed
- Onward
- Picture border
- Of Greco-Roman culture
- Severe critic
- Scrawny guys
- Like a rainbow
- Choice cut
- Adam's garden
- Traditional wisdom
- Kind of cigar or sandwich
- Went by car
- Grounded birds
- In isolation
- HOMES part
- Unvarying
- Sanctify
- Honey
- Tyrants
- Military post
- Tooted
- Mach topper
- Academy Awards
- Squirrel treat
- Kitchen appliance
- Mighty mount
- Bando and Mineo
- Decade count
- Harvardians' rivals
- Warm up
- Frogs, toads, newts, etc.
- Of-used abbr.
- Scary word?
- TV soundstage
- Mare's morsel
- Summer hrs. in Chicago
- Golfer's peg
- Skyrocket
- Stumbled
- Took off

DOWN

- Indian instrument
- Sneeze sound
- Tilts
- Appreciated
- Has suspicions
- Guy
- Edam or brie
- French resort
- Hay units
- Kitchen lure
- Rugby formation
- Revere
- Communication services
- Contemptuous expression
- Temporary calm
- Clarinet relative
- Taxi

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SCENE

Date for the Dance

BY MEREDITH PLUMLEY
SCENE REPORTER

Sweaty palms, shaky knees, stuttering speech—all reminiscent of middle school dances.

Asking people to formals can be a tricky business, with the pressure of potentially dating—or assuming that you and your date are just friends while he or she is entertaining different ideas—wearing the appropriate clothing and dealing other hidden implications.

From start to finish, the process is wrought with annoying issues.

Formals can be overnight, weekend-long events in other cities. This introduces an entirely new group of issues such as rooming together with your date, paying for the room and transportation, and postponing school or work obligations until after the wild weekend.

Even for local events that aren't overnight, asking someone can be a fretful mix of trying to find the right person to ask, getting the nerve up to ask them at all and finally asking them in a not-too-desperate yet not-too-nonchalant way. Overall, students have found a variety of ways to invite that special or just convenient person to their big dance.

Some people believe that the toughest part of the whole process is just finding someone to ask.

When senior Adam Berger needed a date one week before his Kappa Sigma formal last year, he turned to the one place he knew he could probably find someone.

"I walked through Bear's Den late one night last year asking every girl I saw if she would go to formal with me," Berger said.

Luckily, he saw someone he knew and she agreed to accompany him to the dance.

Although this method requires some serious boldness, it is certainly a viable last-minute option. If a girl or guy lurks around Bear's Den until the wee hours and doesn't appear to be hanging on the arm of a boyfriend or girlfriend, he or she may just be the perfect formal date.

Sometimes the most nerve-wracking moment is when you actually ask the question.

Krystyn Stowe, a junior, knew exactly who she wanted to invite, but she couldn't figure out the perfect way to bring up the question. Luckily, she recalled that the fastest way to a guy's heart is through his stomach.

Stowe ran with the food idea to get a date for her Alpha Phi formal. One day when she just happened to be baking cupcakes with Mr. Right she made her move.

"I wrote his name and then the word formal with a question mark," Stowe said. "I was trying to be funny and it seemed like a cute way to ask him." Of

course, he said yes.

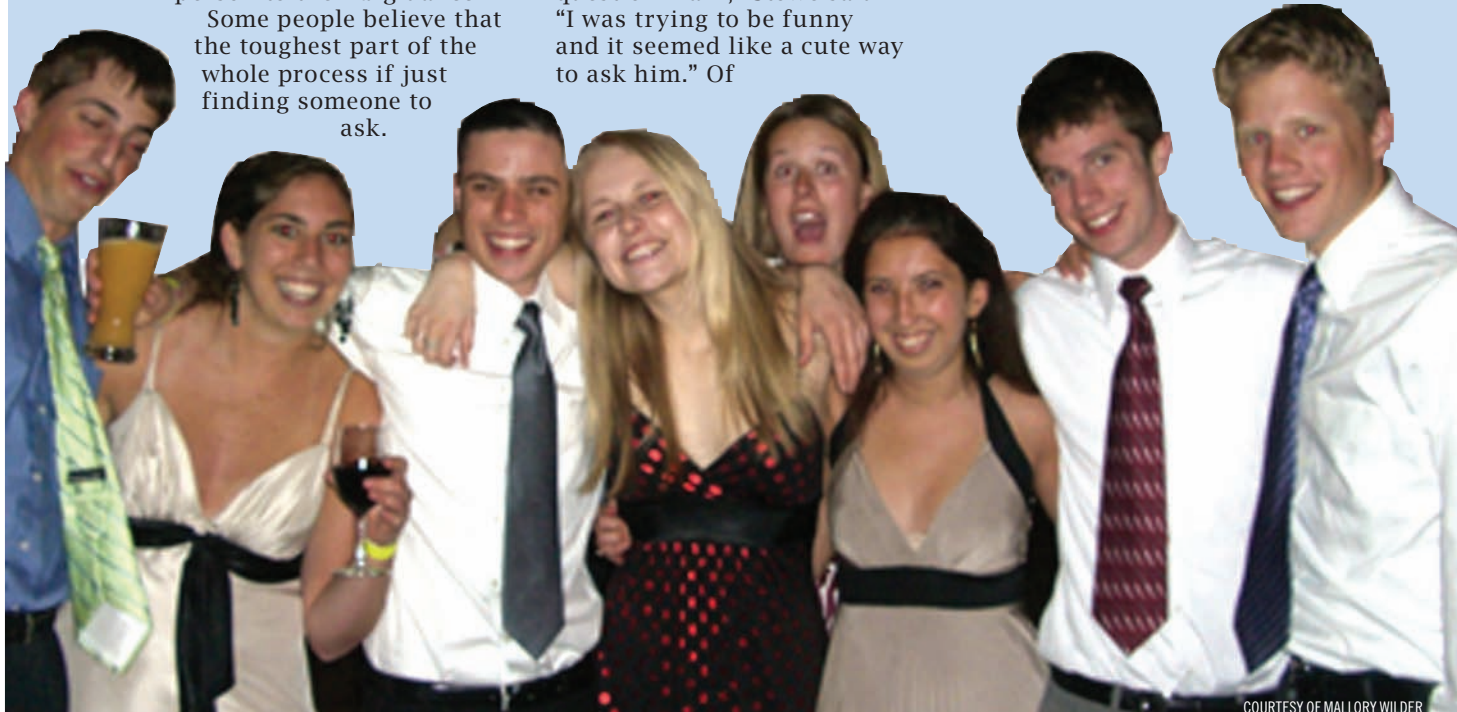
For others, the most stressful part can be the moment that he or she is turned down by a prospective date.

Maybe he or she is too busy, already has plans or just plain does not want to go, but any of these excuses still leaves one with a terrible feeling.

Yet the best advice is to simply keep your head up and start looking for another date right away. Formals can still be a great time whether you end up going with your girlfriend, secret crush or friend from your floor. For Jordan Jacobs, a freshman, a little perseverance was all it took.

"I asked one girl but she said she was busy that night, so I turned and asked her roommate," Jacobs said. The roommate said yes. "I still had a great time though. It didn't really matter that the [first] girl said no."

The precise art of finding the right date to a formal dance can be an extremely stressful practice. Fortunately, these accounts by other students offer some helpful suggestions for relieving the pressure. Whatever happens with your date, whether it's the cutie from math class or your best friend, have a great time at the formal and dance the night away.



COURTESY OF MALLORY WILDER

No, thanks I like my liver

Staying Sober at Wash. U.

BY TARA BENESCH
SCENE REPORTER

It's the weekend, and you've got your parties lined up: Thursday night at Lucky's, Friday at the fraternities, and a house party on Saturday. But while your friends are making their weekly alcohol runs—can anyone say valu-pak of Natural Light?—and downing the last few burgers before their power hour, you're still wondering how you'll manage to fit in at a party that no one but you will remember the next day. Have no fear! Staying sober at a party is a lot easier than you might think, and after everyone else has had a few drinks, they won't even notice you awkwardly standing in the corner with no sketchy red cup in your hands. But to make it all the way through the night, here are some tried-and-true tips to save your liver, brain cells and dignity:

Fake it—That's right kids, it's not just for bad sex anymore. If you arrive late enough at a party, everyone will already be drunk. Come in hugging, shouting and laughing too loudly and you'll fit right in!

BYO... Juice?—This one requires a little advanced planning, but is completely worth it, especially for house parties and small gatherings. If you know your friend is having a party, volunteer to bring mixers and then just pour yourself some of whatever you bring. You're basically drinking the same thing that everyone else is, just minus the vodka.

Grab something—This idea is best for huge parties at the frats. I'm not talking about grabbing people, even though that will also help give the impression you're drunk—or a pervert. People leave empty beer cans and Solo cups everywhere. Just grab an empty one. If you don't want anyone to refill your glass, steal one of the half-full glasses sitting on a table. No one will notice, and no one will offer you a drink, since you already have one. Just remember not to take a sip, which, since you're sober, will be easy.

Pretend it's a late night of studying, minus the studying—You can find two types of sleep-deprived students at Washington University: the really tired ones, and the really caffeinated ones. There are also the zombie engineers who forgot what sleep feels like, but let's ignore them for now. Pick a stereotype and stick to it. If you're tired, pass out on the couch—just watch out for sharpies. If you're not, chug a Red Bull before the party and go wild!

Be honest—Most students honestly don't care whether you drink or not. After all, the less you drink, the more alcohol there is for everyone else! And at the end of the night, you'll be everyone's best friend: you can drive people home, hold their hair back, and even remember where they put their ID and cell phone. Just be ready to retell some stories when people ask you what they did last night.

Alright designated drivers! With these handy tips, all that's left is for you to find the wildest parties this weekend and go all out. Let the nonalcoholic crunkage commence!



Stepping *Out*

La Gra Italian Tapas

1227 Tamm Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139
(314) 645-3972
Price Range: \$5-15

Rating:



BY BROOKE SCHACHNER
AND ERIC BIERMAN
SCENE REPORTERS

After sampling—and greatly enjoying—Spanish tapas many times, we were very excited to hear that someone had applied the concept to a different type of cuisine. La Gra Italian Tapas is a small, bistro-style restaurant on Tamm Avenue in Dogtown that serves up delicious Italian food on both small and large plates. Though the close-to-campus location is slightly off the beaten path, the extremely affordable, yet high quality food makes the trek worth it.

After a slight detour due to a wrong turn, we finally arrived at the restaurant, which is actually much closer to Washington University than we expected.

Upon arrival, we discovered that making reservations, even on a Saturday night, was unnecessary. While the bar was busy thanks to the presence of television sets playing a basketball game, many of the tables in the main dining room were empty. Addition-

ally, much older patrons were filling the unavailable tables.

La Gra can best be described as "cute." It has the intimate feeling of a neighborhood café and, when the weather is warm, there are tables in the front for outdoor dining. While we looked at the menus, our waiter provided bread and a plate of oil and vinegar. The offerings at La Gra are quite diverse, with several small cold plates, many salads and an abundance of different-sized hot plates.

Perhaps the most eye-catching item on the menu is the list of prices, as nothing (except wine) is more than fifteen dollars. Though the wine list is small, the bottles are very inexpensive, and it is also possible to bring a bottle from home for a small corkage fee.

After we ordered, the waiter explained to us that we should keep a menu as we might want to request more dishes throughout the meal. He also informed us that each plate would be served whenever it was ready. This policy makes service kind of unpredictable and erratic, and we were worried

that it would hurt the dining experience. However, the salad came out first, followed by the appetizer-like small plates.

The tomato basil mozzarella salad was a great start to the meal.

The mozzarella cheese was excellent and served with a perfect amount of the balsamic reduction. Next, the calamari la gra and the antipasto platter arrived at about the same time.

The calamari was crispy and not at all greasy, while the antipasto platter, a house selection of Italian meats and cheeses from the Hill, was very fresh. While both were exceptional, it became difficult to eat with the abundance of plates cluttering the table. It seemed that the good service we experienced when we first walked in was steadily worsening.

When those dishes were finally removed, the chicken spiedini was delivered. This dish consisted of boneless chicken breast rolled in lemon, garlic and herbs, grilled and accompanied by the house amogio. This plate was absolutely scrumptious and the amogio, a lemon- and

olive oil-based sauce, was very light.

Finally, our large plate was the last to come out of the kitchen. La Gra offers a "Build Your Own Pasta Bowl" so that diners can pick the kind of pasta—choice of spaghetti, linguini or penne—and the sauce—choice of marinara, garlic cream, rose, amogio or pesto—they want. Then they can choose different "toppings," ranging from meatballs to scallops. We chose penne with grilled chicken in the amogio sauce. Again, the amogio was very good, and the pasta and chicken were extremely well cooked.

To finish the meal, we ordered dessert: tiramisu and a chocolate cheesecake lollipop. While the tiramisu was a disappointment, the lollipop was both an excellent concept and very tasty.

While the service at La Gra leaves something to be desired, the food is good enough to ignore a cluttered table. We definitely recommend going, preferably with a large group of people to avoid taking home boxes of leftovers.



BROOKE SCHACHNER | STUDENT LIFE

At the Italian tapas restaurant, La Gra has a wonderful chicken spiedini dish consisting of boneless chicken breast rolled in lemon, garlic and herbs, grilled and accompanied by the house amogio.