

STUDENT LIFE

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Hillel to undergo a staff transition

BY KAT ZHAO
NEWS EDITOR

After serving at St. Louis Hillel for four years, Rabbi Avi Katz Orlow will be leaving the organization.

Hillel's impending search for a new rabbi comes in tandem with the organization's efforts to find a new executive director, a position that has not been filled permanently for one year. Debbie Igienik currently serves as Hillel's interim executive director.

Orlow cited personal reasons as the cause for his departure, chief among them a desire for his children and his parents—who now live on the East Coast—to be close to each other.

"There are a number of opportunities for me and my family that are too great to pass up on," Orlow said. "It's



Rabbi Avi Orlow, the campus rabbi and assistant director of Wash. U.'s Hillel, will be leaving the organization at the end of this year.

been amazing with students here, but I do have a family to take care of. I would like to get closer to where my parents live. I want my children to know their grandparents."

During his tenure as cam-

pus rabbi and assistant director of programming at Hillel, Orlow has formed relationships with many of the approximately 1,800 Jewish students involved in campus Jewish life. With his depar-

ture, some students are anticipating a period of flux at Hillel.

"I think it's pretty important to have that stable person [of] there. After all, the rabbi is supposed to provide spiritual guidance on campus," junior Jodi Smith, a student involved in Jewish life, said.

But Jessica Litwack, Hillel's Jewish campus life coordinator, does not foresee the rabbi's departure having a significant effect on Hillel's operations.

"Rabbi Avi has been wonderful. Of course we will miss having him," Litwack said. "However, we are hiring new people to fill those positions. Hopefully the people we are looking for will have as much innovation and creativity as he had."

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In preparation for VP Debate, university looks to involve students

BY PUNEET KOLLI PARA
NEWS EDITOR

As Washington University prepares for the arrival of this year's vice presidential debate, the school is calling on students to become involved in the process.

According to Rob Wild, assistant to the chancellor, the University will provide several opportunities for students to volunteer in the debate and to learn about the importance of politics in their lives.

The primary reason that we choose to host debates is the direct benefit it provides to our students," Wild said.

As in previous debates, students will be able to apply to volunteer to help University agencies and media outlets during the debate and in the preceding weeks.

According to Jennie Marchal, business development specialist at the Career Center, students can apply for about 200 positions—working as debate hall tour guides and ushers or taking on administrative and technical jobs—through the Career Center beginning today. According to Marchal, students have priority over faculty and staff.

"All the news media that are here, they need people to help them do [tasks], so the students are working with national news media, local news media, running tours, parking cars, running errands," Marchal said. "Basically the students are doing everything that's needed to help run the show."

Applicants must submit a one-page professional résumé and

cover letter detailing their skills. Those wishing to fine-tune their résumés can make an appointment with the Career Center.

All applicants will have the same application schedule; the early decision round will run from today through May 30, while the regular decision round will run from July 1 through Sept. 5. Actual positions will not be assigned until the entire application process is complete.

Students rejected during the early decision round can reapply during the regular decision round.

Marchal said that candidates would be selected based both on the quality of their skills as well as on their interest level, but that all would be judged on a level playing field.

Additionally, senior and former Student Union President Neil Patel and graduate student Laura Engle, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, currently serve as representatives on the Vice Presidential Debate Steering Committee, the body spearheading the debate planning process.

The committee, which is chaired by Wild and vice-chaired by Associate Vice Chancellor Steve Givens, contains about 50 school leaders from various University agencies, including public affairs, facilities, campus life, athletics, the Washington University Police Department and the Career Center.

Some students will have the opportunity to attend the debate. A limited number of debate tickets will be available for students

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HAVING A MUDDY GOOD TIME



EVAN WISKUP | STUDENT LIFE

Freshman Trevor Mattea shows enthusiasm for Holi, Ashoka's annual water balloon fight on the swamp celebrating the Hindu spring festival, also called the Festival of Colors. Last Friday, even with the cold weather conditions, many students gathered on the South 40 to partake in the activity.



Students packed the Quad in October 2004 during a live broadcast of the CNN show "Crossfire." For the coming vice presidential debate on campus, the school hopes to find ways for students to volunteer and become involved with the proceedings.

Admired business professor to leave University

BY JEREMY ROGOFF
STAFF REPORTER

Amid protests from his students, Tzachi Zach, assistant professor of accounting in the Olin Business School, will be leaving Washington University after being denied the chance to pursue a tenured position.

Zach, last year's winner of the Reid Teaching Award, has gained high praise as both an accessible and diligent teacher. He has taught at the University for six years.

"I absolutely think the University made a mistake, and we're letting one of our most

respected and coveted teachers go," Yoni Dina, a sophomore accounting major and a teaching assistant for Zach, said.

Mahendra Gupta, dean of the business school, said that the decision to refuse tenure to Zach resulted from his lack of completed research.

"Zach is a very good researcher. However, he has not been able to produce, which is unfortunate," Gupta said. "The University must continue to adhere to the principle of continual quality across each and every dimension."

Gupta added that faculty members recruited to work at

the University are expected to attain tenure during their careers.

"When a faculty member does not get promoted, it is a major loss to the school," Gupta said. "It is very painful when we have to let go of that investment."

"If I were making the decision, I think I may have cut him a little more slack personally," Glenn MacDonald, professor of economics and strategy and the former associate dean of the business school, said of Zach. "I'm not saying we made a mistake. I'm saying I can see both sides of the argument."

MacDonald highlighted Zach's demeanor and popularity

as possible reasons why he may have deserved to stay at Olin.

"He's a wonderful guy, a dedicated teacher, and there's a good reason why students think he's terrific, and I wish he was successful in every dimension of his job," MacDonald said. "[Zach is] one of the best-liked and appreciated people in the school."

MacDonald, who has known Zach since he was a graduate student at the University of Rochester, said that the decision not to offer Zach a promotion was debated.

"It's fair to say there was a lot of variety of opinion. It boiled down to how you think about op-

tion value," MacDonald said.

Zach, as with all business school tenure candidates, underwent an extensive review process in which faculty and external experts in his field evaluated his research, teaching and service to the University over the last six years.

From that review, the faculty decided whether Zach should be granted tenure, given another three years to produce scholarship or be asked to leave. Then, a recommendation was submitted to the dean, who made the final decision on Zach's tenure trajectory.

While the value assigned to

each component of a professor's job—teaching, research and service to the school—remains confidential, students worry that in Zach's case, the University placed undue emphasis on research and ignored his teaching abilities.

"Students care more about the teaching than the research, and the University needs to keep that in mind," Dina said.

MacDonald, however, emphasized that the University is a research institution whose continued success relies on "producing knowledge."

See ZACH, page 2

A Cappella keeps campus in tune



With so many A Cappella groups on campus, how do they all get along? Scene explores the friendly campus competition. *Scene*, Page 5

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WU architecture studio receives prestigious national award

BY STEPHANIE WONG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Washington University Professor of Architecture Peter MacKeith recently received a national award for the work done in his studio last year, entitled "Lighthouses: Adventures on the Mississippi."

MacKeith said that the reward was a testimony to the commitment of the students in his studio class, who produced the award-winning piece under his direction. MacKeith, who also serves as an associate dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, taught 15 undergraduates during the spring 2007 semester.

"It was great to go and receive the reward, but the studio is a collective effort and the students really made the semester sing," he said. "They entered into it with enthusiasm, energy and dedication."

The award, titled the Creative Achievement Award, is one of three given by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) to recognize advancements in architectural education.

The students designed observation structures for specific sites along the Mississippi River where other rivers intersected it between St. Louis and Memphis.

Peter MacKeith

Each student researched a site's geography, its history and the people in the area.

MacKeith encouraged his students to "go spend time talking to people, eating in restaurants and smelling the air" so that their structure would fit in with their assigned locations.

Senior John Kleinschmidt's site was at the meeting point of the Mississippi and Big Muddy rivers. The confluence did not strike him as interesting at first, but through his research, he saw that it was a rich site.

"You might pass by it on the highway and not think twice, but once you start to probe the history of the place, you start to see issues that can drive the design of the architecture," Kleinschmidt said. "There were lots of things to respond to."

Kleinschmidt's design for "Lighthouses: Adventures on the Mississippi" was a tall tower that marked the heights of past floods.

"The metaphor of lighthouses is open-ended, as all good metaphors are," MacKeith said. "It allowed the students to develop their interests and engage issues of light, density and weight."

Students were encouraged to consider the ecology of their site's landscape and to work in an environmentally-friendly approach. Kleinschmidt's tower design, for example, was meant to challenge people to consider the effects of agriculture on the land.

"My analogy is that farming is to the land as a levee is to a

river," he said. "The giant farms can have negative as well as positive impacts, and when flooding happens, it happens really badly. Flooding has been getting worse over the years, so people going up the tower would come to the realization that the structure isn't tall enough to mark future floods if waters keep getting higher."

The studio's teaching assistant, Aaron Senne, saw the call for entries in Sept. 2007 and put together the application materials for the ACSA. The awards are given out each spring, and MacKeith said he was "more or less surprised" when he found out about the results.

"It was an honor to receive the certificate in Houston, but this is because of a really energetic teaching assistant who was aware and pulled it all together," MacKeith said. "I can't thank the students enough—it was a very good semester. So we've had a couple of meals together and kept talking."

MacKeith sees many possible directions for future projects. For instance, he is interested in sacred spaces and the way light conditions bring people to larger awareness.

Another project he is considering involves asking students to imagine working on behalf of the U.S. government, designing a pavilion for a world's fair that represents national character through architecture.

"I'm always seeking these kinds of strong metaphors that can be inspiring to design students," MacKeith said.

DEBATE ♦ FROM PAGE 1

by lottery, for which students can sign up beginning today at 8:30 a.m. and ending at noon on Sept. 26.

For those who do not receive debate tickets, the University will provide several remote debate viewing locations. Wild said that details about these locations will be released later in the year.

Among the educational opportunities for students to get involved is a semester-long programming series facilitated by Jill Carnaghi, assistant vice

chancellor for students, that is aimed at raising political awareness among students. The Gephardt Institute for Public Service and the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy will also be hosting events involving students.

"It is our hope that the high level of activity surrounding the vice presidential debate will engage our students in the political process, force them to think about the key issues facing the United States and encourage

those who are eligible to vote to do so," Wild said.

Undergraduates can apply by logging onto the Career Center's Web site at careers.wustl.edu and going to the eRecruiting section. Graduate students, faculty and staff can also apply for positions, but must do so by submitting their materials online at https://forms.careers.wustl.edu/debate08/debatefactcpd.aspx. Students can go to debate.wustl.edu/volunteer to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

unless they understand the importance of ideas in their undergraduate education."

Sophomore Zach Richter, another teaching assistant for Zach, said the professor had

the ability to "take accounting, which is kind of a boring subject, and make it very interesting and fun."

Zach, who will move to teach accounting at Ohio State University

Fisher College of Business in the fall, said he was surprised by the dean's decision and could not comment as to whether it was fair.

"Fair is a relative term, so it's

kind of hard to tell, at least to me," he said.

Zach said that he looks forward to his future at Ohio State, where he hopes to develop a class on accounting policy and

research.

"They have a great accounting department and strong undergraduate and graduate accounting programs," Zach said. "It's a great place to teach."

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SCENE

Singing in harmony

BY RACHEL METTER
SCENE REPORTER

"Jin Jen Den Din Din Dah." What, you may be justifiably wondering, does that mean? Approximately 11 student groups—that's one group per 560 students—on Wash. U.'s campus not only understand, but also use this gibberish jargon on a daily basis.

They dub it "a cappella speak" in the realm of collegiate a cappella, and it allows these singers to groove by functioning as an instrument imitator. It may seem bizarre to watch 15 people on stage, bopping wildly while uttering unintelligible syllables, but to many students on campus, this is hardly a foreign concept.

The a cappella scene on campus is comprised of three coed groups, two all-male groups, one all-female group, a chamber singers group, a Jewish group, an Indian group, a Christian group and a Disney group. But with 11 groups on campus, it would seem that tensions might arise between groups.

"There is a little competition between the groups, but all in all it's more of a camaraderie," Tim Trinidad, group coordinator of the Amateurs, said.

John Michael Rotello, music director of the coed Mosaic Whispers, agreed and recognized that this camaraderie leads to positive results.

"Barriers between groups are coming down and we are becoming more of a community rather than just a bunch of isolated groups," Rotello said.

ACAC, the All A Cappella Auditions Committee, an organization unique to the University, is helping to better these relationships. Before 2006, during auditions, each group would host callbacks on the same day so that auditionees who tried out for more than one group would have to choose which callback to go to. This essentially eliminated the possibility of getting into a different group should the first audition fall through.

"This led to a lot of tension between groups," Aaron Lewis, a former member of Mosaic Whispers who graduated last year, said. Starting in 2006, many of the a

cappella groups on campus elected to host auditions on different days, so that good singers would no longer fall through the cracks.

"It's based on the seniority system," Lewis said. Auditionees can now try out for as many groups as they want and attend their respective callbacks. Then both the auditionee and the group fill out a mutual selection form, making the process fair for all parties involved.

Those who join a cappella, no matter which group, seem to have at least one thing in common: their love for being part of a musical community.

"I love the music and I had a good vibe at the audition. It was a group of girls that I wanted to be a part of as a freshman. It seemed like a good fit," freshman Abigail Russo of the Greenleafs, Wash. U.'s all-female group, said.

A cappella groups can serve as a sort of family or home base for students. Since a typical group may practice anywhere from four to seven hours per week, in addition to other gigs on and off campus, members know



STUDENT LIFE ARCHIVES

The Mosaic Whispers represents one of the coed a cappella groups on campus, shown here performing at a concert in March 2006.

each other well.

"I really like that everyone has this [desire] to be there and this drive to be the best that we can be. We love each other, and we all have similar goals," Rotello said.

Senior Andrew Zenker, group coordinator of the Ste-

reotypes, an all-male group, echoes these sentiments.

"I like getting the chance to sing with a bunch of guys who like to sing," Zenker said.

Despite the large time commitment, rehearsing for a cappella has its payoffs.

The Stereotypes have two full-scale concerts per year and work hard through both semesters to record in the studio as well. Each group handles performance options differently. For example, the Amateurs, another coed group, traditionally has one

big concert per year, called "Goin' Pro," and then elects to perform at various other venues.

No matter how groups choose to show off their respective skills, a cappella seems to be working harmoniously for all involved.

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Increase construction project transparency

Currently, Washington University's construction projects obstruct students' lives. Whether the University could undertake its building goals in a way that affects students less is debatable, but the University should at least be sure to inform students about obstacles caused by construction that students will encounter.

University administrators, working with the construction companies, need to provide students with a clear plan for current and future projects and alternative routes, parking options

and substitutes for areas closed off to students due to construction. This communication is vital to students' ability to plan their daily activities.

Current construction projects include the Danforth University Center (DUC), the new Wohl Center (in front of Liggett-Koenig), Village East (almost complete) and Seigle Hall. Future projects include the demolition and reconstruction of the old freshmen dorms and the demolition of the Brookings parking lot for the planned engineering complex.

All of these projects will

certainly serve to improve University buildings, which should ultimately make life better for future students. However, the way the construction has been carried out shows little concern or forethought for the life of students currently at the University.

Liggett-Koenig residents, for instance, received warning that a fence was going to be constructed in front of their dorm, changing their routes to access different parts of campus, only on the day that it appeared.

Though the Liggett-Koenig incident is an extreme exam-

ple of the University's failure to inform students about construction that would affect them, the University has generally failed to notify students about long-term projects that significantly influence their lives.

These recommendations are especially poignant as the University is about to begin a number of new construction projects which, while improving the University's physical plant, will make life more difficult for students next year.

One of the projects that will most interfere with students' lives is the admin-

istration's plan to rip up the Brookings parking lot, a project that has been slated for an unknown time. The parking garage under the DUC is supposed to replace the parking lot in front of Brookings. However, given the present difficulty of finding a parking space, notwithstanding several levels of the underground garage open, it is clear that parking difficulties loom.

Construction has a real and substantial effect on students' lives, if only because it begins at 8:00 a.m., a time that is unknown to the vast majority of stu-

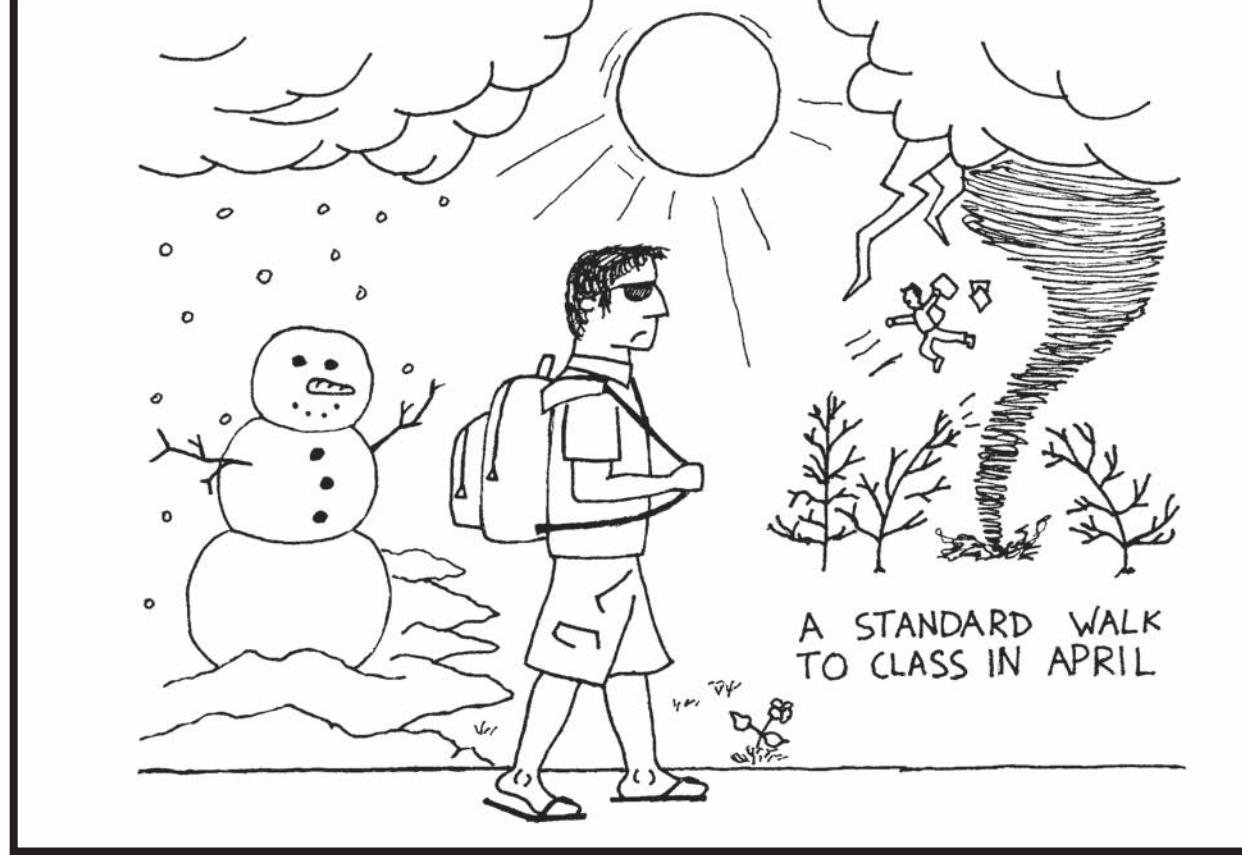
dents.

More importantly, construction alters the space in which we live and study and blocks students' access to important facilities and structures.

In order for students to navigate their daily routines, they need sufficient information about the construction obstacles they will face.

By informing students, the University can help prevent problems and help students plan around the ongoing work. The University owes students the ability to plan around its projects.

IAN ROSS | EDITORIAL CARTOON



Student Union's challenge to you

BY NEHA TIBREWALA
OP-ED SUBMISSION

The upcoming year will be an exciting one for Washington University. With the opening of the Danforth University Center, the location that used to be known as "the hole" will transform into a vibrant place for students to meet, eat and hang out. Although our Washington University isn't located in D.C., we will get a taste of life in the capital during the presidential election when the vice presidential debate comes to our campus.

As your new Student Union Executive Board, we are faced with the challenge of helping to make these hallmark events a success, while defining our newly-formed executive positions as well. We will embrace the unique opportunities of next year, but we can't forget about improving the experience of students on a day-to-day ba-

sis. Our goals for the upcoming term include:

1. **Technology**—We are hoping to implement an all-school calendar to make it easier for students to know what is happening on campus and for student groups to program. We're also working on finding ways to centralize technology on campus, with one username and password for multiple portals as well as implementing a service system similar to Google Apps for checking e-mail and organizing and saving documents.

2. **School Spirit**—Another one of our goals is to help foster more pride and tradition at our University. With the men's basketball team winning the National Championship, athletics are getting more attention, and we want to continue this momentum. Some ideas are bringing in programs such as the "Chipotle Challenge," in which the first 100 or so stu-

dents who come to a game get a free burrito if the Bears win, in order to encourage more people to attend sporting events. This year, Washington Week was a huge success, and we want to continue supporting initiatives such as these and start new traditions to make students have pride in this institution.

3. **Dining**—Wash. U. has consistently high ratings for its quality of food. It is our goal to continue bringing a variety of food choices to campus, but at the same time to make the dining experience more convenient for all students. We're advocating for more hours for vendors on main campus and on the North Side. In addition, we're looking for ways to inform students of the wait time for lines in different locations as well as working with Bon Appétit to ensure that food prices don't increase once meal plan prices are set.

We realize that these goals,

combined with helping with the vice presidential debate and the DUC, are quite a lot for one school year, but we are ready for the challenge. These are initiatives that we thought were important, but in order for our student government to function in the way that it should, suggestions and concerns from the student body are even more important. We ran with the premise that we are running for you because we value your ideas, input, criticism and experience. Are these the things that you think should be addressed on campus? If your answer is yes or no, please come visit us, send us an e-mail, give us a call and tell us what you think. Hold us accountable. That's our challenge to you.

Neha is a junior in Arts & Sciences and Student Union vice president of public relations. She can be reached via e-mail at pr@su.wustl.edu.

Adopt need-blind policies

BY AMANDA MOUNT
OP-ED SUBMISSION

Washington University does not have a need-blind admissions policy. This means that when admissions officers review applications, students who are able to pay full tuition are given higher priority and are more likely to be accepted than students who cannot pay full tuition.

As an alumna of Washington University, I am disgusted by its financial aid and admissions policies. As a student, I was appalled and spoke out, but it is necessary for all students and alumni, including myself, to become more proactive on the issue.

Washington University is perpetuating inequity.

If only 10 percent of Washington University students come from families earning less than \$60,000 a year, then we

are certainly an "elite, wealthy school." According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in the United States in 2006 was \$48,201.

Clearly, Washington University students come overwhelmingly from the upper echelons of the economic bracket. Students who graduate from the University will have higher earning potential, thus sustaining class divisions and inequalities.

As a world-class educational institution, Washington University is competing for prestige with other institutions that almost invariably have much more equitable financial aid and admissions policies.

Bill Witbrodt, director of student financial services, excuses Washington University from responsibility by saying that our endowment does not compare to that of schools like Harvard and Princeton. Certainly, this is true. However, the majority of universities with need-blind

admissions policies have endowments much smaller than Washington University's.

When Brown University became need-blind in 2002, its finances were widely known to be in terrible condition. Should Washington University continue to resist need-blind admissions, it will lose qualified working-class students to these other institutions. Low-income students will apply elsewhere, narrowing Washington University's pool of qualified applicants.

Finally, not only does Washington University's lack of a need-blind admissions policy perpetuate inequity and narrow the applicant pool, but it affects the quality of student engagement with the world.

Class differences are about more than money. Students who grew up in families that struggled financially often have profoundly different worldviews than those who lived quite comfortably financially. Without

those students on campus to share their voices in classes and student groups, more comfortable Washington University students lose an opportunity to see the world from another perspective. Class is an enormous issue in both the United States and countries around the world, and students who want to challenge the status quo of continued inequity must be able to see and hear perspectives that challenge their assumptions about low-income people.

Speak up. Challenge inequity. Do your part to make Washington University more accessible to students who have earned the right to be here academically, but whose parents don't earn enough to pay upwards of \$40,000 a year for school.

Amanda is an alumna (BA 2005, MAEd, 2006). She can be reached via e-mail at asmount@gmail.com.

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

We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

Making a pass at a chauvinistic tradition

BY ANNA SOBOTKA
OP-ED SUBMISSION

Imagine this: Four vivacious 20-something-year-old girls are walking down a wide street in a small city called Punto Arenas in Patagonia, Chile, which is for some reason empty of people despite the fact that is the middle of the day.

On one side are small tin houses and shops painted brightly but carelessly, and on the other side is a construction site for a building that will be a skyscraper in comparison.

The girls walk by, talking and laughing, wearing nothing special in particular, and suddenly, it's as if a flock of birds is released into the wild after years of silent captivity. Men move out from behind the wood planks, from underneath the newly placed floors and out of the small doors of their towering cranes, each and every one whistling. Each and every one.

The racket continues until the girls are a block away and the men disappear back into depths of the partially-finished building.

And then, five minutes later, a 68-year-old woman wearing an aged dress meanders by with clogs and a shopping cart, and the exact same thing happens.

Welcome to South America, ladies.

Most girls can identify with being hooted or honked at some point during their lives, but, as far as I know, only in South America does this phenomenon have a name.

"Piropos" can be anything from simple whistling, sidelong glances, blatant staring, drawn out groans and phrases that translate to "beautiful lady," all the way to trailing behind the female reciting Pablo Neruda's poetry. It happens everywhere, although construction sites are particularly famous for it, and anyone with all the female parts is a potential victim.

Actually, most Chileans will tell you that giving piropos is a dying tradition, one being wiped out by increasing education and an impressive drive toward Westernization.

Indeed, the one place you are sure not to get a piropo is a university campus; there, the guys have been trained to avert their eyes and keep the compliments to their own special lady. It is increasingly becoming a sign of the lower classes, of the poor, of those who don't know better.

But just because it is a dying tradition does mean that it isn't still everywhere, and after a particularly pirope-filled day, my friend Kathryn and I decided that we had enough of being objectified—of being stared at and made to feel uncomfortable—so we decided to make a pass at this incredibly chauvinistic tradition.

I'm not sure; to be honest, I feel guilty seeing it as something else, but I think I do. I certainly have gotten used to it; I have learned to laugh at it, to imitate it and even to expect it and miss it when it doesn't happen.

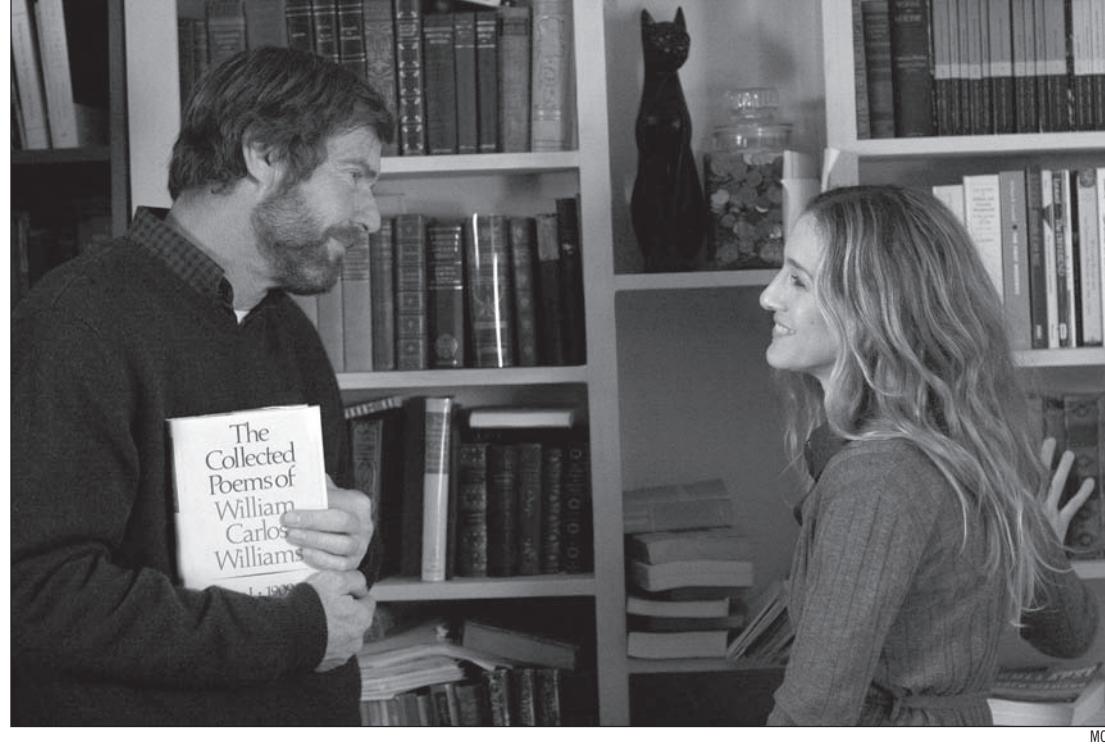
Piropos have become a part of my Chilean life, and I suppose that isn't such a bad thing.

Anna is a junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at assobotka@arts.wustl.edu.

CADENZA

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Smart People'



Dennis Quaid plays an English professor who would like you to know that William Carlos Williams is often incorrectly identified as an imagist when he's really more correctly related to the modernist movement.

BY BRIAN STITT
MANAGING EDITOR

When the trailer for this new pseudo-indie flick from Disney-owned Miramax debuted around Sundance time I noted that by being named "Smart People" the film is automatically marked as a movie for people who aren't "smart." Think about it like this: If "Planet of the Apes" were made for the dirty ape demographic, wouldn't it just be called "Planet?"

The way it is, the movie seems to put "smart people" on display as if they are a zoo attraction. Look at the self-absorbed college professor do the New York Times crossword puzzle in his stuffy, book-lined natural habitat. In our next exhibit, we have his over-achieving, neo-con daughter wearing sweater vests and brushing up on her vocabulary in preparation for achieving a perfect score on the SATs.

A bearded, pot-bellied Dennis Quaid plays narcissistic professor Lawrence Wetherhold. He ignores his students, moves the clock forward in his office to avoid honoring office hours and only seems interested in getting his newest book published. The book, a scathing criticism of the entire history of literature criticism, seems like a book only someone like his daughter might enjoy.

Portrayed with a sufficiently stuck-up, affected, self-important pomp by "Juno" star Ellen Page, Vanessa Wetherhold is the kind of girl who prefers academia to pop-culture and wouldn't know a party if it was raging in her living room.

When her loser of an uncle, Chuck, played by Thomas Haden Church, sporting an especially loser-like mustache, sneaks her into a bar in an attempt to loosen her up, she ends up drunkenly asking a couple of girls in line for the bathroom, "What's it like to be stupid?" They astutely reply "What's it like to sit alone at lunch?"

"Smart People" attempts to be about intelligence and how that gets in the way of relationships. Dennis Quaid lands in the hospital after

a botched break-in to the campus impound lot (he's so self-absorbed he can't help but park in two spaces at a time). His sexy young doctor reports his impact-induced seizure to the DMV, meaning Wetherhold won't be able to legally drive for six months.

The role was originally intended for the adorable Rachel Weisz but instead was given to Unsexiest Woman Alive Sarah Jessica Parker. Personally, I have no problems with Parker's sex-appeal—it's her one-note acting that offends me. As it turns out, that doctor is a former student who harbored a crush for her Victorian Lit 101 professor and actually lets the obnoxious snob take her out on a date. She'll have to drive, of course.

For all his other driving needs, Lawrence turns to Chuck, his adopted brother. Chuck moves into the spare room upstairs and immediately starts spreading his smoky, mellow wisdom around a household desperately in need of an enema powerful enough to kill the bugs up everybody's butts. As Chuck, Church gets all the best lines and generates almost every laugh the movie has to offer. His one-liners are frequent and ingratiating but offer little more than obvious color commentary on the Wetherhold's sad life style.

I watched "Smart People" with two other Wash. U. students who would fit the descriptor offered by the title. They disliked it much more strongly than I. They pointed out that first-time director Noam Murro obsessively dropped in "intelligence" markers, such as high-scoring games of Scrabble and discussions of William Carlos Williams' place in literature as an imagist and a modernist, which added nothing to the plot and simply reminded us that the people we were watching are, indeed, smart. I forgave him this because I think the movie is not intended for the "cultured" indie audience, but for less pretentious and, quite frankly, larger crowds.

"Smart People" could be seen as "The Squid and the

Whale" for philistines, but marking it as such would be undervaluing the message of both movies.

This is not to say that "Smart People" is a resounding success, or really successful at all. It has some funny moments unconnected to the plot, but has far too many hanging threads and unintriguing characters. I don't believe that it should be derided for presenting "faux intelligence," (although it does deserve a black mark for lazy storytelling and characterization) because I think these characters were not supposed to be realistic. Just as Hilary Swank's boorish relatives in "Million Dollar Baby" were cartoonish representations of low-brow middle-America, the Wetherhold clan are just easily digestible portraits of the academic elite.

This movie's problems are far simpler and more fundamental. If Hollywood (and don't let the marketers fool you, this movie is as studio as it gets) really wants audiences to enjoy a movie, they should make characters that are at least mildly interesting after they are easily identified. Lawrence comes off as needlessly grumpy at the start and, while Quaid plays it well, the character doesn't ever open up enough to let us see him as much more than a grouch. In a movie like "Sideways," which "Smart People" certainly tries to emulate, Paul Giamatti's character Miles shows his unflinching humanity when he steals money from his mother's sock drawer. It's a bold move for the filmmaker, and one that may lose the audience, but a divisive choice is better than none at all. "Smart People" doesn't ever take any chances and, for a movie that wants so badly to be clever, that's a pretty dumb decision.

Smart People

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Starring: Dennis Quaid, Ellen Page, Thomas Haden Church

Directed by: Noam Murro

ALBUM REVIEW

Ours: 'Mercy (Dancing for the Death of an Imaginary Enemy)'

BY DAVID KAMINSKY
MUSIC EDITOR

Ours is that band you should have already heard of. The subject of a bidding war between the major labels prior to the release of their first LP (the beautifully crafted "Distorted Lullabies"), Ours received significant press due in part to singer-songwriter Jimmy Gnecco's connection to the late Jeff Buckley and to the similarity of their vocals. "Distorted Lullabies" received decent radio and TV play, but not as much as their label, DreamWorks, hoped for.

Thus, after a little more than a year, Ours returned to the studio in very different fashion. While Gnecco created "Distorted Lullabies" alone over three years, "Precious" was recorded as single takes over a mere few months. The result was a very different album that received even less radio and TV play, and led to a lot of drama with DreamWorks, causing "Mercy's" release to be pushed back all the way to March 2008 although it had been recorded in 2005 and 2006 and many of the songs had been written years before.

Ours' previous works have been most easily defined as melodic goth-rock, and

"Mercy" is no exception. In all of their albums, but especially in "Mercy," the songs' themes are dark, and are crafted to make that blatantly obvious. Gnecco's vocal range allows him to sullenly sing lower notes one second and let out a piercing falsetto the next. Many of the drum sections pound through in a tribal-like manner, at levels surprisingly close to the vocals', while the lead guitar parts primarily work in the realm of long, squealingly high chords and notes that also receive surprisingly high prominence in the mix.

The almost-seven minute title track is by far the best on the album; it starts strong and intensely, building all the way to the breaking point as Gnecco refrains "Mercy for the meek, I won't let you go, I won't leave you now!" Another highlight, "God Only Wants You," is quite different from the sound that runs throughout most of the album. It is a slow, acoustic waltz that Gnecco sings in his most sugary sweet falsetto.

The album is strong throughout with a single exception. Although "Black" has a lot of fantastic elements to it, the spoken word toward the end of the track slows down the momentum. Gnecco's vocals are unarguably the best part of the band, and thus a 30-second section of him just talking makes for pretty uninteresting music.

It's been entirely too long since the release of the last Ours album. After high profile opening spots for Circa Survive and Marilyn Manson, and now the release of "Mercy," one can hope that it won't be another six years before we see more music from Ours.



Ours
Mercy (Dancing for the Death of an Imaginary Enemy)

Rating: ★★★★☆

For fans of: Jeff Buckley, Bends-era Radiohead, the Cure

Tracks to download: "Mercy," "Willing," "God Only Wants You," "Murder"

ALBUM REVIEW

Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin: 'Pershing'

BY MATT KARLAN
CADENZA REPORTER

I have always been bemused by indie pop. It is perfect only for a summer drive in your Prius or a sing-along with your condescending friends (who admit afterward that they will always be too cutting-edge for a sing-along and they only did so for the sake of irony). Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin's (SSLBY) sophomore effort "Pershing" does not try for much, content to be pleasing in its poptastic simplicity.

SSLBY's debut LP "Broom" sold over 20,000 copies, which made the band the bees' knees of the indie sphere. (To compare, Mariah Carey has released eight-tracks of bowel movements that almost quadrupled those sales figures.) "Broom" had edge and innovation, and also threw in some commercial pop. The idea that "Oregon Girl" still finds itself absent from some hip tech commercial flabbergasts me. (You're going to run out of Shins songs soon, HP!) But save a few moments of pep, "Broom" stayed indie (read: whiny).

"Pershing" is certainly more accessible than their first album. The opener "Glue Girls" could be a bona fide mainstream hit, with its catchy, sanguine vocals and snappy bass line. And each song maintains this pattern

of annoyingly breezy and carefree; they were probably all written on a beach somewhere with an acoustic guitar in front of a campfire. But that formula can only work if each song doesn't essentially repeat the last. Track after track grow exponentially more uninspired. All somewhat bubbly, but so much so that the band comes off as smug.

For example, I was not impressed that on "Oceanographer" the band could rhyme six different terms with the title. "Schoolhouse Rock!" has more ingenious lyrics, and at least their songs do not disgrace the pop genre. "Boring Fountain" and "Think I Wanna Die" were not only cutesy, forgettable tracks but they could also double as sound bites from potential listeners. On "Pershing" the novelty of "Broom" has been swept away, and in its place is an unthreatening surplus of effervescence.

SSLBY will alienate their indie following as these listeners become nauseated by the unadulterated, overwhelming sap. The mainstream may enjoy the album for a couple of tracks, but their ADD will kick in after it gets too repetitive. And if the band attempts to tour for a mainstream crowd, their name does not lend itself well for chanting or t-shirts. Muuuus and parachutes, maybe.

The entirety of "Pershing"

seems effortless, but only in the sense that they probably exerted no effort in recording it. And only Jack Johnson can find success by writing in such a fashion. He's crafted just such a carefree career. SSLBY must have realized they recorded such a mindless release. They shipped pre-order copies out with cherry Airheads attached. A candy, like this album, that I would throw away if given to me free of charge. A poor way to honor a fine president of mother Russia.



Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin
Pershing

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

For fans of: Elliott Smith, Jack Johnson, mediocrity

Tracks to download: "Glue Girls," "Heers"

HILLEL ♦ FROM PAGE 1

Senior Eitan Hochster, president of Jewish Student Union, agrees that it is appropriate that Orlow find further opportunities elsewhere.

"Rabbi Avi has reached the full [achievements] that he could make here," Hochster said. "It definitely was a difficult year, but it's working out well."

Orlow added that the departure of a staff member is not of great importance because the organization's focus is on student activities.

"I think Hillel is and always

will be about the students. There is no doubt that we are undergoing a lot of transition with our staff, but it is always about our students," Orlow said.

Orlow also said, however, that staff transition will bring challenges for those students already involved.

"We are able to [encourage] people to make a commitment to Jewish life through our relationships," he said. "A new staff will have an uphill battle in making relationships."

Orlow is confident, though, that Hillel will find competent replacements for him as well as for Igelnik, people whom Orlow believes will bring in fresh ideas and form connections with the students.

"I do not have a doubt that they will fill my job with someone who is amazing," Orlow said. "I have no doubt that the new staff will be able to forge relationships with both old and new students."

In its search for a new executive director, Hillel is also looking for a personality who

can form those relationships by being the face of the organization for a longer period of time.

"We have been looking for an executive director for a number of years. We haven't found the right person yet," Orlow said. "There is no doubt that with Hillel, you form a relationship. With a transition, there is a lack of those relationships, so you're going to have a hard time."

Igelnik could not be reached, despite repeated calls for comment.

Despite the current situation, Litwack feels that Hillel will rebound from its challenges.

"From what I understand, in the past, the Jewish community has been really vibrant," she said. "I think that organizations and student life go through cycles and phases."

Rabbi Hershey Novack of Chabad on Campus, a Jewish student organization unaffiliated with Hillel, also feels that Hillel will continue its past success.

"I am saddened that Rabbi Avi Orlow will not be here next year," Novack wrote in an e-mail. "Although his departure leaves a big void, I am hopeful that a worthy successor will be found. I am confident that Hillel will advance its fine work."

Andy Ratto, Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow, will also be finishing his two-year term at the organization.

—With additional reporting by Ben Sales

SPORTS

Men's and women's track grab second in final home meet

BY JOSHUA GOLDMAN
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University men's and women's track and field teams both placed second out of five schools at the Washington University Quad this weekend. The teams had opportunities to win, as the women lost by only 1.5 points to Lincoln University while the men fell to Lindenwood University by seven points. The women had won the previous three home meets this season.

In any meet besides conferences and nationals, we do not

Leonard-Fleckman, an All-American, won the pole vault, and junior Aubrey Edwards turned in a first-place finish in the hammer throw and a second-place finish in the discus throw. Junior Allie Alberts also took the first in the javelin throw.

On the running side, senior Angela Hartman and sophomore Molly Schlamb finished first and second in the 800-meter run, and Wash. U. won the 4x400-meter relay.

For the men, freshman Scott Pettit won the pole vault, and classmate Ben Harmon took the long jump. Sophomores

"Our entire team and our coaches have to be applauded for handling adversity, which we could not control. The fact that everyone supported each other really helped us out this weekend. We really responded well," co-captain Aubrey Edwards said in describing the team's response to the weather.

Edwards added that anyone who ran more than 200 meters really felt the wind resistance. The women's 3,000-meter steeplechase and 5,000-meter runs were canceled due to the weather.

With UAA conference cham-



Junior Danielle Wadlington takes the lead in a hurdle competition during the Twilight Meet on March 21. In the Washington University Quad this past Friday, Wadlington qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the 100-meter hurdles.

care about our team's place. We're just trying to improve to be more ready for conference [meets]. Everyone is working on what they need to individually, but the team is also working together as a whole," Morgen Leonard-Fleckman, a senior and co-captain, said.

Junior Danielle Wadlington qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.78 seconds, though she finished second in the event to Lincoln's Carla Thomas.

Keith England and Tyler Gordon placed second and third in the javelin throw, and Wash. U. swept the 4x400-meter relay.

Wind gusts of around 15 mph affected events such as the discus and shot put, but Leonard-Fleckman did not view the weather as an impediment.

"I think everyone adapted pretty well to it. It's probably a good warm-up for conferences, which is at the University of Chicago and should have similar weather," Leonard-Fleckman said.

At the University of Chicago next week, the team will be able to send the maximum number of athletes since the meet is within driving distance. The women will be looking for their ninth consecutive outdoor title while the men are looking for their third win in four years.

"The fact that we had a longer weekend than usual will help us get work done. We'll be in a better place academically, which will put us in a better place athletically," Edwards added.

RECENT TOP PERFORMERS

Danielle Wadlington Track and Field

The junior provisionally qualified for nationals in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.78 seconds at the Washington University Quad meet. Wadlington also took fifth in the 200-meter dash.

Jaclyn Bild Women's Tennis

The freshman won both doubles and third singles matches that she played against Coe College and Rhodes College this weekend.

Isaac Stein Men's Tennis

The freshman won both singles and doubles matches in straight sets against Coe College and Rhodes College this weekend.

Ben Harmon Track and Field

The freshman won the long jump with a leap of 6.68 meters. Harmon also finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles and the pole vault at the Washington University Quad meet.

Men's tennis sweeps weekend

WU 8 • COE 1 WU 9 • RHODES 0



COURTESY OF MARK PARTRIDGE

Juniors Chris Hoeland and Charlie Cutler during a recent doubles match. This past weekend, the first string pair defeated Coe College in the doubles competition 8-3.

BY JOHANN QUA HIANSEN AND
JOSHUA GOLDMAN
SPORTS STAFF

The No. 2 Washington University men's tennis team showed that it deserved its national ranking with convincing sweeps over No. 25 Coe College and Rhodes College on Saturday.

The Bears slammed through Coe College's lineup, sweeping all singles and doubles matches.

Wash. U. got warmed up as juniors Charlie Cutler and Chris Hoeland dominated in first doubles, posting an 8-3 score.

Junior Travis Bowman and sophomore John Watts teamed up in second doubles, resulting in a resounding 8-1 victory.

"It's always good to play matches where you dominate, because it helps build your confidence," Cutler said.

Freshmen Max Woods and Isaac Stein followed up in third doubles with an 8-1 victory.

"[The freshmen] are bringing some good energy and a lot of fight," Hoeland said.

Wash. U. then proceeded to dominate the singles matches with Watts, Cutler, Woods, Hoeland and Stein picking up victories in first, second, fourth, fifth and sixth singles respectively. Sophomore Danny Levy kept the winning streak going, winning the third singles match.

"[The freshmen] are as good as anyone in the country at their positions," Cutler said.

Saturday's second match against Rhodes College ended similarly to the Coe College match, culminating with another 9-0 victory.

The Bears did not drop a single set to Rhodes, though some of the matches were close.

The teams of Stein/Woods and Nirmal Choradia/Slavi Fildish won at second and third doubles 8-5, and junior Mark Partridge took a close first set in fourth singles by winning a tiebreaker 7-4 before winning the second set 6-0.

Cutler, Levy, Stein, Choradia and junior Eric Pollak breezed through first, second, third, fifth and sixth singles, respectively, and Bowman/Watts took first doubles rather easily, winning by a score of 8-3.

The Red and Green have won the last five matches. "It's good to get off to a good outdoor season," Hoeland said.

Wash. U. had to play both matches this weekend indoors due to the bad weather.

"We've been looking forward to the sun," Cutler said.

The No. 2 Bears return to action Tuesday at home against Maryville University before away matches against Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Friday and Drury University on Saturday as they prepare for UAA conference championships.

"We'd love to win our first conference championship ever," Cutler said.

"We're doing fitness in the mornings," Hoeland added. "It doesn't matter how good our shots are if we can't stay out on the court."

Women's tennis has a strong weekend

WU 6 • COE 3

WU 6 • RHODES 3

BY TRISHA WOLF
MANAGING EDITOR

Washington University's 24th-ranked women's tennis team (13-3) picked up two quality wins this weekend, defeating both Coe College and Rhodes College 6-3 Saturday.

"We played two tough matches and improved on doubles," sophomore Allison Dender said. "It was a great effort, and we have gotten stronger over the course of the year."

"Everyone is doing their job, and no one is letting their guard down," junior Erin Swaller said.

The team began the dreary day by moving indoors for their 6-3 victory over Coe (19-30), currently ranked 29th in the country.

The Bears won two out of three doubles matches, with Dender and freshman Kristin Fleming picking up an 8-4 win at second doubles, while freshmen Karina Kocemba and Jaclyn Bild won 8-2 at third doubles. Freshman Kaley Cassady and Swaller fell 8-3 at first doubles.

The Bears also picked up four singles wins. Swaller picked up an exciting 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win at first singles while Bild, Cassady and freshman Elise Sambol picked up straight set wins.

Bild won 6-0, 6-2 at third singles while Cassady won 6-0, 6-0 at fifth singles and Sambol 6-3, 6-1 at sixth. Kocemba lost a 1-6, 6-2, 10-5 heartbreaker at second singles, and Dender fell 6-2, 6-1 at fourth.

The Bears were back in action Saturday afternoon against Rhodes (5-4), picking up another 6-3 victory. This time, the Red and Green swept doubles play. The same teams picked up 8-3, 8-3 and 8-2 wins, giving them a 3-0 edge heading into singles play.

Wash. U. went on to win three singles matches to clinch the match. Bild picked up a 6-4, 6-2 win at third singles for her fourth win of the weekend. Sambol also won 6-2, 6-1 at fifth



Freshman Kristin Fleming follows through a backhand hit. Against Rhodes College, she defeated her opponent 6-1, 6-1 and teamed up with Allison Dender for an 8-3 doubles win.

DAVID HARTSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE

We played two strong teams and beat them convincingly."

The Bears have two local matches this week against Principia College on Monday and St. Louis University on Tuesday before playing in the UAA championships this weekend. Play begins on Friday.

"The team's ready," Dender said. "We are prepared to do a great job and show everyone what we are capable of."

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DEBALIVIERE PLACE APARTMENT: 1-BR and large 2-BR apartments with high ceilings, A/C, and good closet space. Quiet building on Clara Ave. with ample gated parking and laundry on site. \$525-\$800, water and cable included. 314-540-3387. We also have apartments for Aug. occupancy.

GREAT 3-BEDROOM apartment in the Loop. This three bedroom apartment in the UCity Loop has hardwood floors, new kitchen and bath, and every window is a brand new double paned thermal window—huge difference on the utility bills. \$1200. 6250 Clemens. 314-608-2692.

SUBLET

PERFECT SUMMER SUBLET next to Forsyth metro! 5 minute walk from main campus! Safe neighborhood. Eateries near by. 3BR, 1.5 BA. Only \$400 + utilities. Contact cyy@wustl.edu.

SUBLET APARTMENT AT 7116 Forsyth for the summer. Email jkgreenb@wustl.edu for information. Up to three apartments potentially available.

SUBLET

SUMMER SUBLET: A great, cozy room with cool roommates. Great location on Forsyth: close to metro and campus. GOOD PRICE. Please contact Dan at (314) 518-7902 for more information.

SUMMER SUBLET: WASH Ave. near campus and the Loop. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 3rd floor with balcony, big windows, kitchen, washer/dryer in building, parking lot. Please email sarahb1@samfox.wustl.edu if interested or for more information.

SUMMER SUBLET: WASH Ave. near campus and the Loop. 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, 3rd floor with balcony, big windows, kitchen, washer/dryer in building, parking lot. Email: cele-gates@gmail.com if interested.

REAL ESTATE

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

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

FOR SALE

MOVING OUT SALE! Graduating senior needs to sell all his stuff for CHEAP. 24" TV \$100, Desk \$10, and more. Email Stu at safigero@wustl.edu for more information.

2003 VW BEETLE Convertible for sale by grad moving to NYC. Only 20,000 miles! Automatic, silver exterior with black top and interior. Excellent condition. Email jshafran@wustl.edu to inquire.

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 amy-cbg@yahoo.com or 314-971-0971 if interested or for more information.

AUTOS

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

WANTED

FOUND: ENGAGEMENT RING or similar. Found on SE side of main campus. Email cdm5@cec.wustl.edu with description to claim.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: ENGAGEMENT RING or similar. Found on SE side of main campus. Email cdm5@cec.wustl.edu with description to claim.

BE A STUD



DRINK A PROTEIN SHAKE

GO TO THE GYM

BEEF UP YOUR RESUME BY WORKING AT STUD LIFE

Student Life is looking for account executives.

Interested freshmen, sophomores and juniors can download an application at www.studlife.com/adjobs

Email application and resume to advertising@studlife.com or drop it off at the advertising office.

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Steals by sleight of hand

6 Out of discordant

10 Tickled pink

14 On the wrong side (of)

15 Betting group

16 Make less difficult

17 Boorish

18 Kind of pistol or pilot

20 Baby billy

21 Fizzler

23 Sister of Venus

24 Top pilots

26 Confidential matter

29 Divest (of)

30 Deep wound

31 Gobi's location

32 Compos mentis

33 Put in a pyramid

35 Items

38 Low-lying location

40 Apiece

41 Predict

45 Folk

49 Almond-shaped

50 Arctic Circle dweller

52 Spoken

53 Garnet's color

54 Snoopy, for one

56 Solitary

57 Drops a line

59 Ballyhoo

61 May honoree

62 Rapid climb

65 Well-coordinated

67 Authentic

68 Besides that

69 Violin bow

70 Farmer's locale, in song

71 Arboreal abode

72 Exhausted

DOWN

1 Parcel

2 Type of violet

3 Most vociferous

4 Pretend pie ingredient

5 Downhill racer

6 Black suit

7 Part of us?

8 Untrue!

9 Nearby

10 Stick-shift selection

11 Sideways pass

12 Sans sense

13 Roaring

14 Twenties, e.g.

19 Encountered

22 In working order

25 Snow remover

27 Tom Clancy subj.

28 Uncommon

32 Educate

34 Gymnasts' pad

36 Knocked softly

37 Bar cubes

39 Singer Fitzgerald

41 Ahead

42 Supervise

43 Avant-garde

44 Be a straggler

46 Word of honor

47 Bath oil ingredient

55 City on the Ruhr

58 Swiss marksman

60 Rowboat equipment

63 de-France

64 WW2 spy grp.

66 Republicans

54 Golfer Hogan

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4/11/08

Thurtene 2008



Thurtene Awards

Burmeister Cup

Delta Gamma and Sigma Nu

Best Production

Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Sigma

Construction and Spirit

Alpha Epsilon Pi and Alpha Epsilon Phi

