

Political satirist protests self, comments on campus construction and Sarah Palin.



Michelle Obama looks back on the college days and weighs in on the election process for students.



Students raise awareness over social issues and the election, and hold a moment of silence for the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



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MICHELL KNIGHT | STUDENT LIFE

Students watch as God goes on trial

WU students watch Hitchens, D'Souza debate deity's existence

Puneet Kollipara
News Editor

Washington University students trekked to the Grand neighborhood of St. Louis on Wednesday night to watch a debate of godly proportions.

The Fixed Point Foundation, a Christian think tank, hosted "God on Trial," a debate on the existence of a higher being, at the St. Louis Powell Symphony Hall. The Foundation, which also serves as a teaching resource for churches and the religious community, intended the debate to examine the merits of belief in theism and Christianity.

Representing the atheist perspective was journalist, commentator, literary critic and prominent atheist Christopher Hitchens. Representing the Christian perspective was author,

conservative commentator and public speaker Dinesh D'Souza.

Hitchens, who regularly writes columns for magazines like Vanity Fair, The Nation and The Atlantic, wrote the book "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" last year. The book was a nominee for the 2007 National Book Award.

D'Souza has also written several best-selling books, including "What's So Great About Christianity?"

"I think the Fixed Point Foundation's idea was that we have a lot of debates on issues but in some sense this is the underlying issue, the dividing line between belief and nonbelief, and a lot of other issues spin out of that," D'Souza told *Student Life*. "There used to be this kind of debate in America 100 years ago, but somehow it went out of fashion. And so they're trying to bring it back."

Several student members of a new group on campus, The Forum, attended the debate. According to The Forum's president, sophomore Stephen Murata, the group was organized to promote discussion among the student body about important issues while tolerating those of all backgrounds.

"Everybody is welcome to come as long as they're ready and willing to

look at their own beliefs from a critical perspective and are willing to expose their beliefs to the fire of fair criticism," Murata said. "The sole purpose is not to get anyone to think a certain way, although that may happen. The ultimate goal is to get people to search for the reasons why [they] believe what they believe."

The group is dividing its activities into three seasons, the first of which is called "Is Science at War with Religion?" According to Murata, the debate's topic made for a perfect opening event.

D'Souza argued that Christianity explains certain things that a non-religious perspective cannot explain, including the creation of the universe and morality. D'Souza also argued for atheism's responsibility for 20th century totalitarianism and brutality.

By contrast, Hitchens argued that a god is not necessary to explain the origins of the universe and humanity. He added that the Christian God and religion itself represents tyranny and exploitation.

Sophomore William Dahl, vice president of The Forum, felt that the group's attendance at the debate was

See GOD, page 2

Students take a stand

School organizations encourage political activism

Sophie Adelman
Contributing Reporter

Among smells of spray paint and cartons of free Ted Drowes, students gathered outside the Danforth University Center for the Take a Stand Rally: an afternoon of outreach programs from numerous activist, advocacy and political groups.

Organized by the Campus Y in conjunction with the VP Debate Program Planning Committee, Student Union and the Gephardt Institute for Public Service, the rally was organized to create a higher level of political awareness

on campus.

This semester, rallies, discussions, voter registration tables and speakers such as Carl Bernstein will constitute part of the effort to engage the Washington University community in the electoral process.

The rally was open to both graduate and undergraduate students, and groups were granted free reign to advocate for their causes in the most creative ways possible.

"We really wanted to give students an opportunity to show their passions," Campus Y Director Deb Salls said.

Projects ranged from the elimination of water bottles on campus to the environmental education of elementary school children.

The event showcased numerous groups, including the College Democrats and Students for Barack Obama, which provided T-shirts and spray paint to students so they could create their own wearable endorsements.

One of the most popular booths was that of the Roosevelt Institute: a national, student-run, private policy think-tank that tries to generate public policy. Students lined up at the booth to answer questions about the policies of the two candidates in exchange for Ted Drowes frozen custard. As participants vied for icy treats, they were grilled about foreign policy, environmentalism and the economy.

"[The goal is] to get people to start thinking about what policies they're voting for, as opposed to what candidates they're voting for," junior Stephanie Chalifour, a member of the Roosevelt Institute, said.

In honor of Sept. 11, a moment of silence was held after the speeches, but little emphasis was placed on the rally's relevance to the events of seven years ago, as the rally's leaders wanted to focus on the years to come.

See ACTIVISM, page 2

Med School faulted for nuclear waste disposal

Ben Sales
Senior News Editor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has fined Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the Washington University School of Medicine \$3,250 for their inappropriate disposal of nuclear waste last May.

After performing surgery on a patient on May 7, 2008, employees of the Barnes-Jewish Hospital disposed of two radioactive iodine seeds used to

treat prostate cancer by washing them down the sink instead of recovering them according to protocol.

The University reported the incident to the commission immediately after it took place.

Although the incident occurred at Barnes-Jewish, the University is taking joint responsibility because its staff oversees the radioactive surgery unit. Barnes-Jewish will be paying the fine.

The seeds did not constitute a health or safety hazard due to their short radioactive life and low level of

radioactivity, but action will be taken against those responsible at the discretion of Barnes-Jewish's administration. In addition, relevant staff will receive training on how to manage radioactive materials and the equipment used in their handling.

"Both Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital are committed to correcting the root causes leading to the loss and to preventing a similar situation in the future," read a statement by the Medical School.



JOY WANG | STUDENT LIFE

On Wednesday night at the Powell Symphony hall, journalist, commentator, literary critic and prominent atheist Christopher Hitchens (right) and conservative commentator and public speaker Dinesh D'Souza (left) debated the merits of belief in God or in a higher power.

EARLY MORNING CROQUET



LUCY MOORE | STUDENT LIFE

Three recent graduates of Wash. U. played croquet on the grass in front of the Women's Building on Wednesday. Though fall is approaching, and cooler weather with it, members of the University community continue to enjoy the warm weather.

Three sororities open for fall bids

Kelly Fahy
Contributing Reporter

This fall, three of the six sororities at Washington University have chosen to participate in the University's first open bidding process to increase membership.

The campus membership quota for each sorority was raised from 90 to 115 last spring, based on a calculation of the ideal size for chapters at the University.

As a result, Alpha Phi, Pi Beta Phi and Chi Omega have chosen to have open bidding for sophomores and juniors interested in joining their sororities, according to a sorority member who asked not to be identified because she is not authorized to speak about open bidding.

The sorority member said that the open bidding option was open to all six sororities, but that the three remaining ones—Alpha Epsilon Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Delta Gamma—chose not to participate in the process because they were not in need of more members.

"Sororities are not allowed to go over 115 unless formal recruitment pushes them over. They aim to start at the 110 to 115 range before going into formal recruitment," Lucy Morlan, coordinator for chapter development in the Greek Life Office, said.

After formal recruitment before the spring semester, the chapters are expected to have 140 to 160 members.

While the three sororities that chose to participate in the bidding may be smaller than the others, the sorority member said that the difference in size is due not to popularity but to national recruitment standards.

"Every sorority manages its numbers differently," she said. "The three sororities that decided to take advantage of it did so not because of dwindling membership but because it was a good opportunity to get more sophomores and juniors."

Morlan added that this also presented sororities with an untraditional way of attracting members.

"A lot of sororities think 'this

See SORORITY, page 3



THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Friday 12

 Thunderstorms
 High 78
 Low 72

Saturday 13

 Scattered
 Thunderstorms
 High 82
 Low 68

Sunday 14

 Thunderstorms
 and Wind
 High 69
 Low 54


eventcalendar

FRIDAY 12

'80s Party

Theta Xi
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Whether you remember the greatest decade or not, come relive the golden years of shoulder pads and leg warmers at Theta Xi's '80s dance party.

SATURDAY 13

Beta Bubbles

Beta Theta Pi
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The brothers of Beta Theta Pi will be hosting their annual foam party on Saturday night, complete with bubble makers in the house's basement. Dress to get wet.

City Faces at Chipotle

6316 Delmar Loop, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Head back to Chipotle this Saturday and buy a burrito to support City Faces. The kids of City Faces will be there painting a mural on the side wall facing Chipotle's parking lot, and 75 percent of funds raised will go toward City Faces.

SUNDAY 14

Campus Week of Dialogue – Kick-off

DUC 233
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
The Campus Week of Dialogue's events will begin Sunday with a coffee talk-style discussion followed by a Connect4 information session. Food will be provided.
(Compiled by Dan Woznica)

newsbriefs

International

London student sells virginity on eBay

It's sold sports tickets, celebrity memorabilia and even a human organ, but online auction site eBay has a new commodity, as Bristol University student Rosie Reid, 18, auctioned her virginity off on the site to pay off college debts.

According to an article published in the BBC, Reid said she would prefer to have sex with somebody she doesn't know over facing years of debt-induced poverty.

Reid received over 400 offers within the first three days of putting her virginity up for bidding, including one offer of £10,000.

"It started as a joke," Reid told the BBC, "and ended up as 'why not?'"

"I am devoting too much time to paid employment and not enough to studying. I am not achieving as much as I could," she said.

eBay has recently disabled Reid's auction. (Dan Woznica)

Oil drops to \$100 a barrel

Just hours after an OPEC meeting, Saudi Arabian officials announced yesterday that oil prices dropped to less than \$100 a barrel.

This price represents a 31.5 percent price decrease from the record high cost of \$147.27 a barrel on July 11. Prices have dropped 5 percent in the last three trading days alone on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a commodities exchange which handles billions of dollars worth of energy products, metals and other such commodities.

Analysts have said that the recent decline in oil prices can be attributed to fears about a global slowdown, according to an article published in The New York Times.

Hurricane Ike is not expected to have an impact on the price of oil.

"It's a bearish signal that oil is dropping at the base of a Category 3, Category 4 hurricane," Dell said. "Most of these facilities are designed to withstand hurricane force winds." (Perry Stein)

Mass fainting during Tanzania exam

Students at a school in Tanzania experienced a mass fainting fit while taking their final exams.

After finishing their first paper, 20 girls at Ali Hassan Mwinyi School started fainting. "There was chaos, crying, screaming, running after that first paper," Midemo Paul Makungu, Tabora's educational officer told BBC News. The school is located in Tabora, a regional capital known for its fruits.

More than 140 seventh graders were taking the national exam when the fainting occurred. According to Makungu, arrangements were made so that those who fainted could finish the two other papers.

Those who fainted finished their entire exam by 11 p.m. Reports indicate that this isn't the first time a mass fainting fit has occurred. There have been several over the last month.

"Normally this happens in girls' secondary schools. It is very common here," Makungu said. (Johann Qua Hiansen)

ACTIVISM from page 1

"We decided it would be a good day to look forward instead of look back," said Salls. "It's a good way to memorialize September 11 but also to look forward to the future, to the work that needs to be done."

The rally also featured speakers like Truman Scholar Kelley Greenman, a senior, who focused on environmental issues and advocacy.

Hana Greenberg, who attended the Democratic National Convention through a grant provided by the Gebhardt Institute also spoke about her motivations for political activism.

Another speaker was Sadena Thevarajah, who discussed human rights in Sri Lanka. Thevarajah, a second-year law student representing the South

Asian Law Students Association, also ran a booth in collaboration with her own organization, People for Equality and Relief in Sri Lanka.

At the booth, students could sign up online to send e-mails on a bi-weekly basis to their legislatures, alerting them of violence in Sri Lanka.

"Receiving the e-mails, whether you decide to send it or not, makes [the situation] part of your conscience," Thevarajah said.

Robin Hattori, the program director of the Gephhardt Institute who co-chaired the event along with Student Union President Brittany Perez added, "We wanted the rally to not just be about promotion, but about the cause."

GOD from page 1

a success.

"I thought it was a great turnout. I will say that both participants made some very eloquent and very good points and they also made some very bad points," Dahl said. "Both of them caused people to think about it, which was the goal of this debate."

The event was almost hosted on campus in April, and group leaders had been involved in coordinating with the Fixed Point Foundation to plan the event. However, in the end the event fell through due to what Murata called "logistical reasons."

Students found the debate to be

entertaining and thought-provoking.

"I felt the debate was very eye-opening and I felt like each gentleman stated his beliefs eloquently and articulately," sophomore Jennifer Karikari said.

Freshman Daniel Dutcher felt that Hitchens underperformed in the debate and that he was capable of doing much better.

"I'm a Hitchens fan, but I don't think he did as well as he could have," Dutcher said. "D'Souza seemed to be a lot more elegant and to the point, and Hitchens seemed more to side-step around questions and not answer them as directly, even though I know

that he can because I've read his stuff."

"Hitchens didn't really address all of the questions directly. He kind of meandered a little bit and kind of went around it in a convoluted way," Karikari said.

D'Souza suggested that students reexamine Christianity because they are often brought up with a juvenile, underdeveloped understanding of it.

"Many people have been raised in Christianity, but they don't realize that they've learned that Christianity at a very young age," D'Souza said. "The purpose of having these debates, in a secular setting and in a sec-

ular language, at least from my point of view, is to look at Christianity with fresh eyes because too many people are jaded against it, but they're jaded against a juvenile version of it."

Hitchens, however, encouraged students to be wary of faith-based initiatives.

"At all costs, beware of the words 'faith-based.' Anything faith-based is to be very much distrusted," Hitchens said in an interview after his appearance. "We have reason, we have doubt, we have skepticism, we have investigation, we have inquiry. These are the only means by which we have ever made any progress."

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Nixon campaign courts students for internships

Jeremy Rogoff
Staff Reporter

As the November election nears, Missouri's Democratic Jay Nixon For Governor campaign is tapping into a network of left-leaning, politically involved Washington University student workers and volunteers.

Through a spate of e-mails, announcements before classes, and meetings with political organizations, campaign operatives for the Missouri Attorney General-turned-Democratic gubernatorial nominee have courted Washington University students for unpaid internships.

The campaign's effort has been ongoing since last year, but has accelerated in anticipation of the election.

"There is a real energy on college campuses to get involved in the political process," Oren Shur, a Nixon campaign spokesman, said. "We're making a special effort to reach out to students at Wash. U. and at campuses across the state, because the students usually provide the energy."

Shur estimates that hundreds of students across the state have become involved in the campaign to varying degrees. Depending on their availability, students work anywhere from four hours to 70 hours weekly.

Opportunities within the campaign have ranged from public relations to get-out-the-vote efforts to fundraising, depending on student's interest and the campaign's needs.

Despite the election less than two months away, the campaign is looking to take on more interns.

"There are still plenty of phone calls to make and plenty of doors to knock on," Schur said.

Nixon, who served in the State Senate from 1986 until being elected State Attorney General in 1992, has made two unsuccessful bids for the United States Senate. After Republican incumbent Governor Matt Blunt announced he would not seek reelection, Nixon decided to compete for the open spot.

Nixon has outpaced his Republican opponent, U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof, in fundraising by more than \$1.4 million.

Nixon is a product of the state's public university system, graduating from



Jay Nixon, Missouri Attorney General-turned-Democratic gubernatorial nominee, has courted Washington University students with offers of unpaid internships in an attempt to convert their energy into a winning campaign.

the University of Missouri in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in political science and with a law degree in 1981.

Nixon holds traditionally liberal views on key issues and favors expansion of the state healthcare system and making college more affordable.

While it is unorthodox for state campaigns to try to utilize activist potential on college campuses, the Nixon campaign has not been deterred in its efforts at the University, where many students who live out of state vote in Missouri.

The campaign's attempt to seize on student enthusiasm has also included trips to Saint Louis University, the University of Missouri and other campuses across the state.

University students have responded

to the Nixon camp, as several students have signed up to work for the next few months.

Danny Gaynor, a junior who planned to intern with the campaign this fall, said he saw an internship with a gubernatorial campaign as a more authentic opportunity than working for a presidential nominee.

Although Gaynor did not work for Nixon because of school credit issues, the idea of working for a local campaign did not deter him.

"I'm a hardcore, serious independent and I wanted to get exposure to a campaign," Gaynor said. "I would have worked for anybody, but I thought presidential campaign work would be trivial."

Metro budget deficits may cut campus routes

Ann Johnson
Staff Reporter

Due to a budget shortfall, St. Louis Metro is expecting widespread service cuts for the spring of 2009.

The MetroBus services to Washington University are among the lines marked for reduction and possible elimination.

The predicted reductions in service will affect the WUSTL Red and Gold lines, both of which are used by University students.

Metro has proposed the elimination of the 60 Midland line, which stops at the University and serves Clayton, University City, Vinita Park, Overland and St. Ann, along with the University City-Big Bend MetroLink station.

The reductions to the WUSTL Gold Line will be significant. The current service, which covers St. Louis City, Clayton, Richmond Heights and Brentwood, will be cut to provide service between the Central West End and Clayton MetroBus centers only.

This will mean the elimination of service from the University to the St. Louis Galleria, Brentwood Promenade and Maplewood Commons.

The University students will also likely feel the impact of the WUSTL Red Line's reduction. Its current service covers Pagedale, University City, Clayton, Richmond Heights, Brentwood and St. Louis City.

After reductions, however, the Red Line will provide only one-way service between Clayton and Hanley Roads to the Brentwood Promenade. The stop at the St. Louis Galleria will be eliminated.

"The issue is a lack of revenue for Metro, which has to shrink to the size of the money available," Metro representative Diane Williams said.

Metro's revenue shortfall, beginning in the spring of 2009,

exceeds \$45 million annually. Metro's Web site claims that "the deficit is the result of a long-term erosion of funding."

These changes mean that students wanting to go to Target in Brentwood Square will have to either take the bus one way and the MetroLink train back, or use the MetroLink both ways.

In the case of Target, there is no pedestrian walkway between the Brentwood train station and Brentwood Square, forcing pedestrians to either hike across roadside ditches or walk along the shoulder of Eager Road, a four-lane road.

Students who use those MetroLink buses believe that the cuts will make it harder for them to travel the city, although public transportation remains available.

"I live off campus and the Red Line is the lifeline, it goes back and forth off campus," junior Alice Sheldon said. "Taking the train back would be very inconvenient."

But some students, like freshman Sara Rangwala, do not envision the cuts having a significant impact.

"It's not that bad because you have the MetroLink [train], but it does stop you if you don't want to walk that much," she said.

The WUSTL Gold Line had 38,000 riders in July and the Red Line had 37,000. Even Delmar's line, which, at 104,000 riders per month is one of MetroBus's most-used lines, will be reduced.

Williams urged University students to take part in the decision-making process, which has not yet been finalized.

"I would encourage people to come to the public meetings," she said. "There you will see a fairly comprehensive picture of what's at stake, and be able to voice opinions on how to move forward."

The schedules for the public meetings can be found on St. Louis Metro's Web site, www.metrostlouis.org, under the subsection of "Crossroads."

STUDENT LIFE

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Questions for Mo Rocca

Student Life News Reporter Dan Woznica spent some time with political satirist Mo Rocca before his Assembly Series talk on Wednesday. Here are Mo's thoughts on Wash. U.'s construction, the election and, of course, Sarah Palin.

Student Life: I dug up some of your information for this interview from your Wikipedia article. What's it like having a Wikipedia page?

Mo Rocca: At first it was flattering, and it kind of remains flattering. I like Wikipedia, though through my own personal involvement with it I've come to like it less. I've been to it a couple of times and—for example—I was never in a video with Snoop Dogg. I'd love to have been in a video with Snoop Dogg, but I've never been in a video with Snoop Dogg. Apparently Wikipedia thinks I have a lot of involvement in the hip-hop community. And I wish I did—my name is sort of hip-hop-y, I suppose—but I don't. Anyway, that's all well and good. I just don't want to be accused of having tried to kill Gerald Ford.

SL: So what do you think of Wash. U.? Do you feel like it's changed at all since you last came in 2004?

MR: There's been a lot of construction. I love the Wash. U. makeover. I just don't want Wash. U. to get too much Botox. I love Wash. U.'s lines and its natural wrinkles, and I think if there's too much reconstructive surgery done, it might become a little plastic-y.

SL: 2004, the last time you came here, was the year we had President Bush and John Kerry debate on campus. Now you're here again in the year of Biden and Palin. What do you think of the VP nominees?

MR: I think that Sarah Palin, until proven otherwise, is a stunt.

SL: What are you hoping to see out of Biden and Palin at the debate?

MR: Whether or not Palin is a stunt, she is the first woman GOP VP candidate, and the second woman on a major party ticket. However this election turns out, just looking at this debate alone, it will be a very real advance if this debate is executed by the



Mo Rocca protests against his own speech, as Rick Andrews of Suspicious of Whistlers introduces him. Rocca spoke to an overflowing crowd in Graham Chapel on Wednesday afternoon.

participants and covered by the press in a gender-neutral way. And hopefully that will happen. Because this is nonsense what's going on right now. The sideshow has taken center stage. I made a vow to myself that when talking about politics I'd always at least make an effort to be funny, but this thing is so wacky and upside-down right now that it's hard to not be serious—even distressed.

SL: Your Assembly Series speech is called "Making It Up As I Go Along: Satire In An Absurd World." What's the role of your satire in today's political atmosphere?

MR: Hopefully to bring people to their senses a little bit. I think the title of my show is in fact fitting for this. Because we're all still trying to make sense of what the Palin thing means. It appears right now that John McCain has deployed a brilliant stunt, and it may pay off for him. But whatever it is, it's an absurd situation. And absurd situations, like this one, on some level are funny. So it's my job—knock on wood—to find out what's funny about them to at least

awaken people to what is absurd. Because then the flip side of that absurdity is something that's wrong. Governments shouldn't be absurd.

SL: Do you view what you do as a kind of service?

MR: It's entertainment. But entertainment is diversion, which means I'm drawing attention to something, something that may not be all that obvious. And here it's something that's in fact kind of serious.

SL: Any advice for Wash. U. students regarding this election year?

MR: Keep your eye on the bigger issues and don't get sidetracked. Palin's become a tabloid superstar. And it's funny on one level. It's really funny. And if this were happening six months ago, I'd be laughing about it. But there are 55 days to go.

SL: Are you going to cover the VP debate?

MR: I want to come back here for it. If somebody has an extra bed, I just need a place to crash.

SORORITY from page 1

is something new we can try," she said. "They're excited to be doing this. It throws a little twist onto the [recruitment] process."

The University traditionally uses a 'deferred' recruitment process. Formal recruitment, held the week preceding spring semester, is the first opportunity for first-year students to join a sorority. The Women's Panhellenic Association (Panhel) makes no note of the informal recruitment process on its Web site because "they don't want to turn people away, but they have a limited number of spaces," according to Morlan.

"Informal recruitment is not structured in the same way as formal recruitment, and each individual chapter has the ability to schedule their own events and offer bids throughout the fall semester," Panhel President Michelle Beasley said.

Formal recruitment, by contrast, is more structured, with a week of

scheduled events before sororities and candidates make their decisions and decide bids. Morlan said that the lax nature of the open bidding process may attract students who feel intimidated by the atmosphere of spring rush.

"Formal recruitment can seem over the top to some women," Morlan said. "We want to let them be a part of [the sorority system] without having to go through the whole circus."

Open bidding is also geared toward older students, as opposed to the spring, which is focused on freshmen.

"A lot of sophomores have friends who they think would like these sororities," she said. "They enjoy it [and] they want their friends to be a part of it. It's a good way to get girls who weren't able to rush last fall."

Beasley sees an overall increase in interest in sororities on campus, as reflected by the number of wom-

en who registered for bids and the subsequent bid acceptances, which were higher than they were the previous year. She expects this trend to continue into 2009.

In order to make sure word gets out about open bidding, Panhel will be holding informational sessions throughout the semester so that women who are interested in joining sororities can learn about the system. The sorority member said that sororities have also been open about the process within their chapters.

"They've been clear with us all along that this is not a bad thing and that it's not indicating any low membership level on our part that's our fault," she said. "It's been a very positive thing for all three chapters. All the chapters that are involved in this are strong ones."

With additional reporting by Ben Sales

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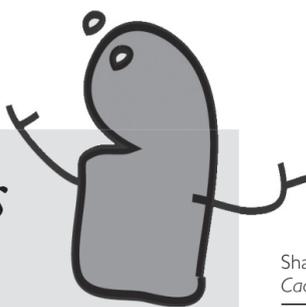
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In Defense of the MTV Video Music Awards



MOVIE REVIEW

The Stand-Ins Okkervil River

Stephanie Spera
Cadenza Reporter

So what were you doing Sunday night? Your reply should be, "Watching the VMAs, obvi." And if, for some inexcusable reason, you responded differently, let me emphasize why this awards show was not to be missed. (I'll discuss the efficacy of abbreviating some other time.)

Since Madonna first humped the stage during "Like a Virgin" in 1984, MTV's Video Music Awards have been the ultimate setting for celebrity shenanigans. You won't find Madonna and Britney Spears making out at the Oscars. The Teen Choice Awards wouldn't have allowed Diana Ross to cradle Lil' Kim's pastie-clad right breast. And Michael Jackson would never have mistakenly—and awkwardly—accepted an award for "Artist of the Millennium" (when he was actually just being wished a happy birthday) at the Grammy's...

well, who knows with him.

Although not part of the actual ceremonies, the VMA pre-show is both entertaining and enlightening. A good predictor of what I'm sure will turn into amazing parenting skills, a pregnant Ashlee Simpson strode around the carpet with recently-dyed hair while John Norris' continued existence on MTV, despite the fact that he is almost eligible for an AARP membership, showed middle-aged men everywhere that sometimes they should not try to fight the mid-life crisis.

And then there's the arrival to the red carpet itself. From yachts to tour buses to helicopters: a star's mode of transportation has consistently been a symbol of how a star views him/herself. There even exists a mathematical relationship between the two: The size of one's vehicle is directly proportional to the size of one's ego—and this year was no exception. While Paramore drove up to the red carpet in SmartCars, Paris Hilton was rolling down Sunset Boulevard with her new beau, Benji Madden, in a

black Escalade with a giant advertisement for her new MTV show, "BFF" (a competition in which people compete to be her best friend), plastered to the roof, and T-Pain, well, he rode in on an elephant.

Not only did you get to watch an awards show this Sunday, but you also got to witness a heated debate on the pros and cons of saving yourself for marriage. Host Russell Brand (whom I am relatively certain snorted some kind of crack before arriving on stage), began the lively discussion while mentioning how the JoBros' decision to wear promise rings may not be in their best interests. Yet, this was only to be rebutted by Jordan Sparks' assertion that, "Not everyone—boy or girl—wants to be a slut." And with this sentiment, the virginal-of-mind won the argument as Brand came back out on stage, apologizing, and uttering my favorite nonsensical of the night: "I want to apologize. I don't want to get in none of that rhubarb tonight."

So where does the music come in? The performances are an integral part of the VMAs: I still remember P.Diddy and Sting's legendary and poignant tribute to The Notorious B.I.G.; I can pinpoint the exact moment I fell in love with Kanye West to his performance of "Jesus Walks" three years ago. This year, it was Lil' Wayne who stole the show. First, he delivered a killer performance of "Don't Get It," "A Milli" and "Got Money" (while also demonstrating that the correct way to pull up one's loose trousers is by grabbing one's crotch). Then, he unexpectedly came on stage during Kid Rock's "All Summer Long" and sang, quiet well, in an epic duet that better show up in the iTunes music store soon. And even the bad acts serve a purpose. The VMAs showcase which artists can and cannot perform live: I'm talking to you Rihanna, Paramore and Katy Perry.

It gets even better. Trivia questions now flash on the bottom of the screen during commercial breaks, so the advertisements are less annoying than usual. The announcer states at exactly what time each performance is going to be, so if you need to use the bathroom but are afraid to miss the Jonas Brothers, you know exactly how much time you have to spare. Two hours and 17 minutes—that is how long the VMAs lasted this year. There were no excessive acceptance speeches (this year's best and shortest goes to Joe Hahn of Linkin Park simply telling presenter Shia LeBeouf that "'Transformers' was awesome") and no inane categories (like the Grammy's 'Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album' award). The VMAs know how to maximize their time.

I could write a thesis on all that is awesome about the Video Music Awards, but, I won't make you suffer through that. Instead, you will just have to promise that you will tune in next year for the best awards show on television.

Sha Sha Lu
Cadenza Reporter

"The Stand-Ins," the fifth full-length album of Austin-based indie rockers Okkervil River, will not disappoint fans of brainy lyrics, sunny melodies and frontman Will Sheff's quivering vocals which, when particularly passionate, can ascend to howls.

Known (or rather unknown) to most as the unpronounceable name of some geographical feature, Okkervil River has gathered a tight-knit yet sizeable following, partly through opening acts for high-profile bands like The Decemberists and the New Pornographers. Their most prized asset is undeniably Sheff's songwriting capabilities. Within every song, he creates entire thematic narratives without sounding overly bookish or resorting to arbitrary, eccentric vocabulary. Heck, he even manages to rhyme entire verses without falling into the pit of teeny-indie-bopper doom (somehow "Hey There Delilah" comes to mind).

"The Stand-Ins," touted by the band as the sequel to "The Stage Names" (released in 2007), stays true to the essence of its predecessor, thus completing, in elegant fashion, a two-part album. Sheff continues the underlying theme of deglamorizing rockstardom and a more general exploration of the entertainment industry with extended metaphors ("Lost Coastlines"), a vignette of a narcissistic, overly-cultured musician ("Singer Songwriter") and a forlorn hymn to a has-been artist ("Bruce Wayne Campbell...").

The album opens with a nearly-there warped melodic intro, followed by its catchiest, radio-friendly strummer, "Lost Coastlines." The interplay of Sheff's high-pitched rock vocals and Meiburg's deep croons aptly complements the song's tentative sailor facing the necessary unknowns of life. The second half of the song is dominated by endless "la la la's" but enriched by the occasional tambourines and horns resonating just as powerfully with acceptance and anticipation of the future. Other stand-outs include the no-fuss power-pop "Pop Lie," which reveals the superficiality of both pop stars and their fans ("he's the liar who lied in his pop song, and

you're lying when you sing along") and "Blue Tulip," which takes the fans' point of view as Sheff builds the song from weak utterances to an epic anthem embodying both the exhilaration and disillusionment of fandom.

With only 11 tracks, three of which are instrumentals less than one minute long (interspersed strategically to mimic the contrived moods of movie soundtracks), "The Stand-Ins" cannot afford to have bland fillers. Consequently,



for fans of

The Decemberists, The National

tracks to download

'Lost Coastlines,' 'Pop Lies,' 'Blue Tulip'

the band does fairly well to create a dense album of smart songs easy on the ears, with narrative lyrics just cryptic enough for coffee-house-loving, poetry-reading, indie intellectuals to ponder.

A word of caution: at first listen, all the tracks may sound the same. Unfortunately, nigh into their 10th year together, Okkervil River has bothered little with instrumental experimentation. For the most part, simple tunes going up and down the major key scale are accompanied by carefree acoustic riffs and piano backups with smatterings of the electric guitar when Sheff is feeling particularly emotive.

Nevertheless, the album is an intriguing compilation of folksy rock songs united conceptually and strengthened by Sheff's poetry. "The Stage Names" merits a listen as well and is possibly still the edgier of the two albums.

MOVIE REVIEW

Burn After Reading

Sophie Adelman
Cadenza Reporter

Part dark comedy, part spy-thriller satire, part seemingly realistic interpretation of the relationship between Washington D.C. bigwigs and clueless civilians, "Burn After Reading" delivers. Comprised of larger-than-life characters and ridiculous misunderstandings, all typical of a Coen production, the brothers take a sharp turn from the fatalistic "No Country for Old Men" to provide a piece that revels in the stupidity of characters acted superbly and outlandishly by an all-star cast.

The plot revolves around Osborne Cox (John Malkovich), who has just been ousted from the CIA and its old boy network. Feeling the sting of what he continues to term "bureaucracy," Cox retreats to his Georgetown home to dictate his memoirs, stare aimlessly out the window and self-medicate with Jack and Cokes. His wife, played by Tilda Swinton, is horrified by his descent into disgrace and promptly begins to make divorce plans to leave him for her lover (George Clooney). All goes awry when a copy of Cox's personal files mysteriously appear in a gym locker room and two gym employees, Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand, decide to capitalize on their roles as "Good Samaritans," hoping to receive a reward from Cox for retrieving his precious files. McDormand

dreams of putting her share toward a "reinvention" plan, mostly comprised of numerous cosmetic surgeries. It is not long before everyone—from the lowly Hardbodies Gym staff to the bigwigs of the CIA—is in over their heads.

Pitt, with his perfectly coiffed, highlighted hair and default facial expression of sheer stupidity, is hilarious in his role as McDormand's "can-do guy." Just watch Pitt bumble his way through his ill-conceived plan and try not to laugh, especially when he busts out his signature dance moves, which John Travolta can only pray never to see.

Tilda Swinton's turn as Cox's cold, calculating and manipulative wife, whose ill-suited profession in pediatrics is only paralleled by Pitt's ill-suited foray into blackmail and espionage, is spot-on. Observing her attempt to ram a tongue depressor down a young child's throat while simultaneously threatening him is priceless, and also eerily reminiscent of my elementary school nurse.

However, my favorite character was that of the senior CIA agent, played by J.K. Simmons, best known as the father from "Juno"—only don't expect to find any G-rated Midwestern epithets here. With his deadpan expression and clear exasperation at the tremendous inconvenience of the dead bodies showing up at every turn, Simmons' performance is



directed by

Ethan Coen and Joel Coen

and starring

George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt, John Malkovich

outrageously funny. He's not often on screen, but his blasé attitude toward the storm around him seems to put everything in perspective. Who are the idiots in this comedy? The ones running the show, or the ones trying to?

There have been mixed reviews from some well-known critics after "Burn's" screening at the Toronto Film Festival, and I can see why. This is not a film for those who appreciate the subtler aspects of comedy, nor the subtler development of characters. However, "Burn After Reading" is pure escapist entertainment, and a must-see for fans of the Coen brothers' comedy.

Sophie Adelman
Cadenza Reporter

"The Quilt" is an album of trying: trying to be different, trying to fit into the popularity of the mainstream, all while trying to be accepted and remembered with the same prestige as hip-hop groups like The Roots and Outkast. The outcome of all these attempts is the inclusion of so many big names: Estelle, Busta Rhymes, The Dream, Lil Wayne and Dre. Perhaps because of all this trying, nothing in the album feels organic.

The opener ("Guilty As Charged") creates a motif for the entire album—waiting for the chorus. Estelle's voice sounds promising, but when McCoy steps in, the song's appeal drops a level. Gym Class Heroes can't seem to stay in one genre (and do it well) anywhere in the album. They make an attempt at a pseudo-reggae chorus ("Drnk Txt Romeo"), a failed cry for passion with expletives that feel almost forced ("Peace Sign/Index Down") and a rather random insertion of ska ("Blinded by the Sun").

"The Quilt" does a few things well. "Catch Me if You Can" proves to be a worthy single that doesn't fall back on featured big names. "Cookie Jar" makes a great club song even if it is a

ALBUM REVIEW

The Quilt Gym Class Heroes

for fans of

The Decemberists, The National



tracks to download

'Catch Me If You Can,' 'Don't Tell Me It's Over'

sell-out. Just make sure to scroll past it quickly when showing new friends your music collection. McCoy's lyrics finally start to come to life in "Don't Tell Me It's Over," and the help of Lil' Wayne and Dre provides a fitting complement.

The remainder of the songs fail to shine. There is a fleeting glance at nostalgia ("Like Father, Like Son"), but the lyrics kill the song ("Papa was a rolling stone/ But I want to be the cover of a 'Rolling Stone'"). All hopes of fluid continuity dissipate with the appearance of power-pop in "Live a Little." The last few tracks are easily forgettable, lacking originality both lyrically and aurally.

The album leaves the listener wanting more, and the main person to blame for this may be MC Travis McCoy. His lyrics lack emotional involvement, effectively preventing thoughtful engagement on the part of the listener. His imagery lacks the luster of "As Cruel as School Children" and the musician-ship throughout the album does nothing to make up for it. As far as progressions go, "The Quilt" is most definitely a step-down. Gym Class Heroes are bouncing all over the place with "The Quilt"—a rather premature move when they've barely mastered one genre.

SPORTS

WU 2 PRINCIPIA COLLEGE 0

Soccer wins home opener

Joshua Goldman
Senior Sports Editor

The Washington University men's soccer team took advantage of its first home game Tuesday night, defeating Principia College 2-0. The team is now 2-2 and will serve as co-host of the Washington University/Fontbonne classic this weekend.

After competing in the BSC Labor Day classic on August 29-31 and going 1-1, the team returned to Missouri last Saturday for a game against Westminster College. Two Westminster goals early in the second half proved to be enough, as the Bears were only able to get one of the goals back. Sophomore Nick Wilbar notched his first goal of the season in the 66th minute, the last goal of the game.

Once again, Wash. U. held the lead in shots 15-5, but the Blue Jays were successful on a header and a free kick.

"The team played very well against Westminster, but soccer can just be an unlucky sport... We had 18 great chances, but their goalie made some great saves," Head Coach Joe Clarke said.

Tuesday night's return to Francis Field resulted in a victory over Principia College. The Red and Green played an all-around solid game, finishing with a shot lead of 11-5 (8-2 shots on goal in the

2-0 victory). Junior John Hengel scored in the 64th minute to give the Bears the lead, and freshman Zach Hendrickson recorded his first collegiate goal with a shot from 20 yards out in the 87th minute to seal the victory.

"In the past, we haven't been as strong at home. It was really good to get off on the right foot," co-captain Marshall Plow stated.

"It's important to win, psychologically. If you start to lose and get on a trail of losses, bad things happen. Players get tentative, and you can't play like that," Clarke added, on the importance of the win.

Clarke also explained that he talks about the process, not about winning. Despite the slow start, Clarke has seen significant improvement by the team and expects to contend for postseason play once the team discovers its playing style.

"Our forward play has gotten better. I think we're making better runs. We're becoming more dangerous. It's just a matter of putting the ball in the back of the net," Plow said.

Wash. U. opens play tonight at 8 p.m. with a home game against Southwestern University. The team will then play Denison University at 6 p.m. on Saturday, a game that will be played at Gay Field in Clayton.



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Sophomore Alex Neumann heads the ball during the season opener against Principia College on Tuesday night.

around the WU

Football:

Saturday v. Westminster College at 7 p.m.

Men's Soccer:

Washington University/Fontbonne Classic Friday v. Southwestern University at 8 p.m.
Saturday v. Denison University at 6 p.m. (game played at Gay Field in Clayton)

Women's Soccer:

Sunday v. Wartburg College at 1 p.m.

Volleyball:

Fifth Annual Teri Clemens Invitational Friday v. No. 1 Juniata College at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday v. Bethel University at 12 p.m.
Saturday v. No. 13 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at 5 p.m.

Men's tennis to be recognized

The Men's 2008 NCAA Division III National Championship Tennis team will be honored at halftime of the Washington University football game on Saturday. The football game is scheduled to kick off at 7 p.m. The men's tennis team will be giving out free national championship T-shirts, autographing posters and much more. Red Alert will sponsor a free barbeque at the beginning of the football game.

In addition, the No. 2 Washington University volleyball team will take on No. 1 Juniata College on Friday night at a Red Alert-sponsored event. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Field House. Red Alert will be distribute free pizza to students wearing their Red Alert shirts. The most-spirited fan will win a coupon for the WeCar.

STUDENT LIFE presents a guide to places of worship in the WU community

Religious Directory



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STUDENT LIFE

Carpe Diem three years later

Tess Croner
Forum Editor

Now that I'm a senior, I believe I can see the end of the proverbial road. I seem to be smarter, better or at least older than I was three years of intensive schooling ago (if you want proof, see the excellent use of the word "proverbial" above). If success at college life is graded pass/fail, I fully expect to pass (with honors? Come on, people, you want me to write how many pages for an honors thesis?). Still, it's never too late for improvement. So four months early, many of my friends and I are spouting New Year's resolutions. I thought I'd share a handful of my goals with you and make them public so I can be held accountable. Just remember this is a process. Carpe Diem isn't a one-day thing. As far as I can tell, the only expiration date on making life extraordinary is the end of that other proverbial road.

Here goes:

1. I will be conscious, present and punctual.

Yeah you heard me, no more sauntering into class five minutes late, wheat bagel in hand. I will drink caffeinated tea, abide by curfew, do morning yoga—anything to be sure I'm awake and perky in the classroom. I've gotten a lot out of lectures in the past, but the highest levels of learning aren't easy when you're somewhere in REM phase. It's a lifestyle choice: I WILL go to bed before three. I WILL get out of bed in the morning. Even study seniors have to revisit the basics, I guess.

2. I will be a life-long learner.

I'm sure this is not a surprising concept to any of you, is it? I think it's what we're all meant to become after four years of college education. The sad part is that the real world doesn't work as hard as Washington University to be intellectually stimulating. There will come a day, I'm sure, when it will be incumbent upon me to be my own professor. If I get a Ph.D. in a few years, I'll have it made. Otherwise, I might as well start the lifelong learning habit now with a little more consistency. I have a calendar on my bedside table with a different disease for each day. I've been stuck on Elephantitis for about six months. I think it's time to flip the page and teach myself something new.

3. I will be the epitome of health, stability and discipline.

I've been working on this one for a while. This involves two liters of water per day (or a justifiable attempt), the quick and immediate death of procrastination in all forms, and avoidance of those people and habits that are simply no good. We're talking lust, gluttony and sloth—not very original, I know. But seniors in college are not slaves to their impulses. Right?

4. I will be green.

Even if that means finding those damn recycling bins—why can't they all just be next to each other? And why is the hole for plastics so small?

5. I will make plans for the future.

Later. Carpe later.

Tess is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a forum editor. She can be reached via e-mail at forum@wustl.edu.

The other side

Sara Remedios
Staff Columnist

I think I'm in touch with the other side." "The other side of...?" "The other side." "With Republicans?" Okay, so that's from "Gilmore Girls," but until this past summer it could have been me. For my entire life, the first 18 years of which were spent in a suburb of D.C. that votes nearly 80 percent Democratic in any given election, Republicans have been "the other side": the other side of the issues, the other side of the aisle, literally the other side of the Potomac River. They're "them," and we're "we". Why would you not want to be liberal?

Which, I think, will give you

some idea of how I felt when I found myself, entirely by accident, working all summer 9-5 four days a week for a conservative Republican lobbyist. Lobbying in the interest of big-business energy consumers. Who were almost all Republicans. Who spent considerable time criticizing the liberal left for their raving idealism. Yeah.

I spent the first part of the summer keeping my mouth shut and feeling a little dirty. I took the job because it paid well and because the lobbyist in question was a friend of my uncle. I kept the job for those same reasons, and because it was great experience that would look really great on my résumé. But after my

See REMEDIOS, page 7

STAFF EDITORIAL

Housing prices compromise diversity

Washington University has taken huge strides to boost diversity on campus.

The school has a multicultural weekend as well as many cultural groups, courses of study, lectures and events. The University has placed an emphasis on diversity in people's living situations and even has Residential Advisors spend two days on diversity training.

According to its Diversity Mission Statement, "Residential Life is committed to supporting and nurturing diversity through recognizing these shared endeavors and the uniqueness that each student, faculty and staff member brings to them. Through the similarities and differences we find in our race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, religion and national origin we believe that our campus provides rich and unique opportunities to learn from one another."

But the University undercuts

its efforts to promote diversity by building lavish dorms and cheaper, but still expensive, dorms near significantly cheaper off-campus apartments because the economic forces behind housing cause students to end up living with other students who have similar incomes.

Village East is Wash. U.'s latest and greatest luxury dorm, where students can live for a year at a price of \$10,906. The newest dorm ranks as the University's most expensive housing option. Single apartments in Rosedale and Greenway rival the price of Village East at \$10,366.

For the students taking out loans, don't worry, Residential Life has other options for upperclassmen starting at \$7,360.00 per year, and living off-campus in non-University housing can be even cheaper. Residential Life offers different types of housing that students can purchase for different amounts of money increasing in increments of about \$1,000/per year to accommodate

all types of budgets, but through this system Residential Life does not really give students the opportunity to experience diversity in their living experiences.

When students form blocks to apply for housing, they're not just deciding who they get along with, but also who can afford to live in the same type of housing the block prefers. Accordingly, the system imposes a social stratification whereby students with similar financial resources live together in the housing they can afford.

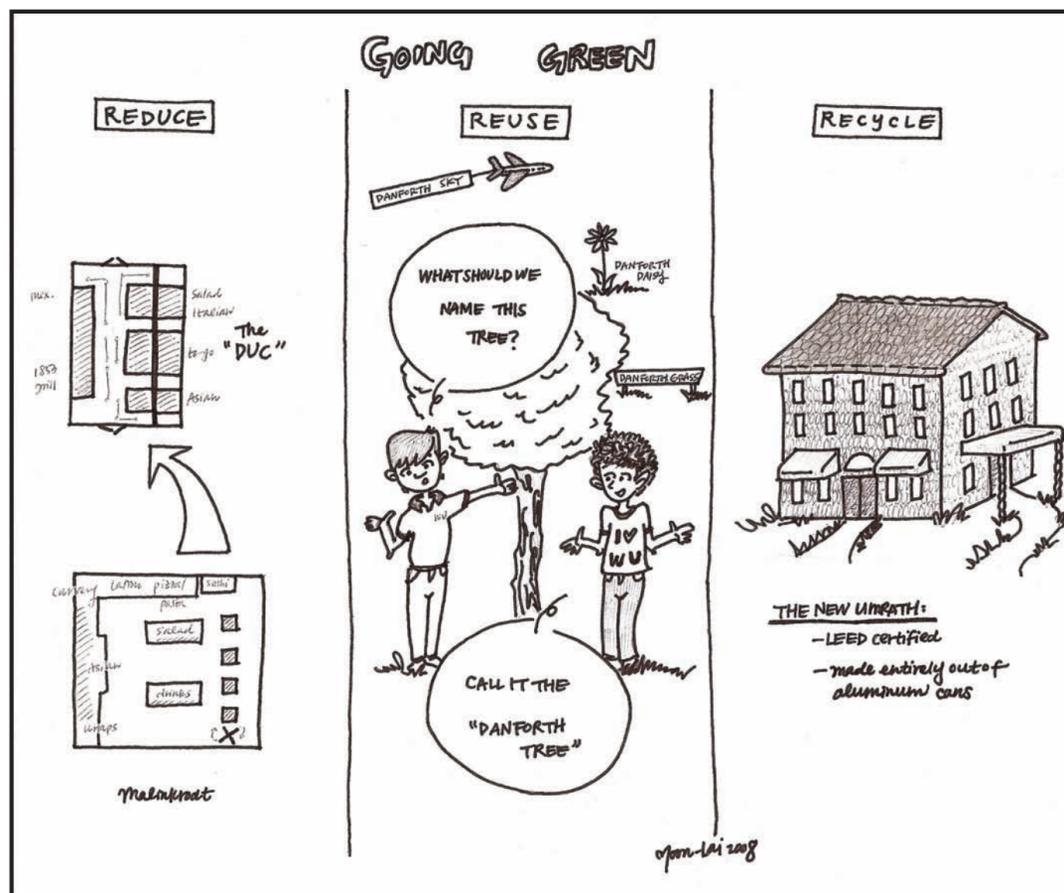
In order to truly uphold economic diversity in student housing, the University needs to stop building lavish dorms that students can't afford. The University will always be competing with the pricing of apartments around the area and the students with the fewest financial resources are often forced to move off campus to the surrounding areas with friends who need to make the same financial move. Instead of building new dorms

that cost \$1,363.25 per month (counting the school year as eight months) the University needs to be building dorms that compete with rent prices for off-campus apartments that cost less than half that amount.

At the very least, the University should tend toward building more affordable buildings even if it cannot compete with the buildings in the area. Or, if the University feels it needs to update its dorms to attract students, it should find one affordable uniform price to charge students to live on campus regardless of where they live and even out the housing differences with a more compensatory lottery system.

There are a variety of ways the University could go about changing their system to better allow students with different economic backgrounds to live together, but if it truly wants students to receive the benefits of living with a diverse group of people it needs to make some change to the way it prices housing.

RACHEL YOON EDITORIAL CARTOON



Engage in politics of substance

Jill Strominger
Senior Forum Editor

As the secret service begins to enter our campus along with the reporters who have already begun to ask student leaders for interviews, the political atmosphere on campus has started to heat up. I can't imagine how fiery the political climate will be by October 2. The political excitement will take a lot of us in, and we will find ourselves passionately supporting our candidate in countless conversations that we'll have with our friends, families, acquaintances and even strangers. Many of us will be interacting with people involved in covering national politics or involved in managing national political

campaigns. This is our chance to influence how politics work in our country.

Our country currently faces serious problems, and what our careers, income and living space will look like throughout our life is dependent on leaders who will address those issues with proposals—not positions—and engage in conversation about problems. This is supposed to be what the new politics, embraced in ways by both candidates, is about.

It isn't news that neither candidate has run a fully honest campaign focused on a conversation about how to run this country. I don't think it's currently possible for candidates to run that type of campaign and be viable even though we are pressing for them to do so. The reason is that once we decide to support a candidate

we latch onto the catch-phrases we see in speeches, the media, and advertisements that oversimplify the campaign. If Americans aren't going to put enough energy into their voting decision, to think critically about the claims made by both candidates, then politics won't change.

This means we need to question what we're hearing and what it means for our future. For example, a current Obama strategy is to compare McCain to President Bush and mention that they voted together 90 percent of the time.

That's interesting, but what does it really mean? What issues did they both vote for? How many issues that are voted on are truly bipartisan? Even though President Bush currently has a low approval rating due to the most publicized positions he's endorsed, when it

comes to the daily work of running the country and the bulk of the voting, how much do we disagree with Bush? And since McCain is running on his own set of issues, shouldn't we be looking at those issues rather than who agrees with McCain?

McCain has used similarly misleading tactics. He recently aired advertisements that attack Obama's judgment because he did not select Hillary Clinton as his running mate. Okay, so a lot of people liked Clinton, but what is the nature of the broad enduring trait in Obama's judgment that caused him to not pick Clinton? How does this decision made by Obama prove a pattern of poor judgment that will affect the country? The ads from the McCain campaign comparing Obama to a celebrity have the same flaw: They

don't tell us anything about why Obama's popularity will negatively affect the country.

Many of the major campaign messages coming from the two candidates tell us nothing about what we can expect to be the future direction of our country under a certain candidate's leadership. And we desperately need campaigns to be about plans for the country and not about personal characteristics of the candidates that don't affect plans.

This is where we come in as students. It's time to stop quoting television ads as we make cases for our candidates. It's time to stop talking about McCain's war history or Obama's economic background. Neither of these histories alone are going to solve our problems. It's time to stop demonizing the candidate we don't

support and instead applaud that person for being brave enough to spend time thinking about issues and contributing to a conversation about the future of our country.

Politics should not be a war of good versus evil. It should be a conversation where different parties put forth different ideas, and we all listen to all of them and engage ourselves. So, as the debate comes here and political attention shifts to our school, let's let go of our stereotypes about candidates and let go of irrelevant candidate characteristics. Thinking critically and making the type of politics that actually solves issues a viable way to run for President depends on us.

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

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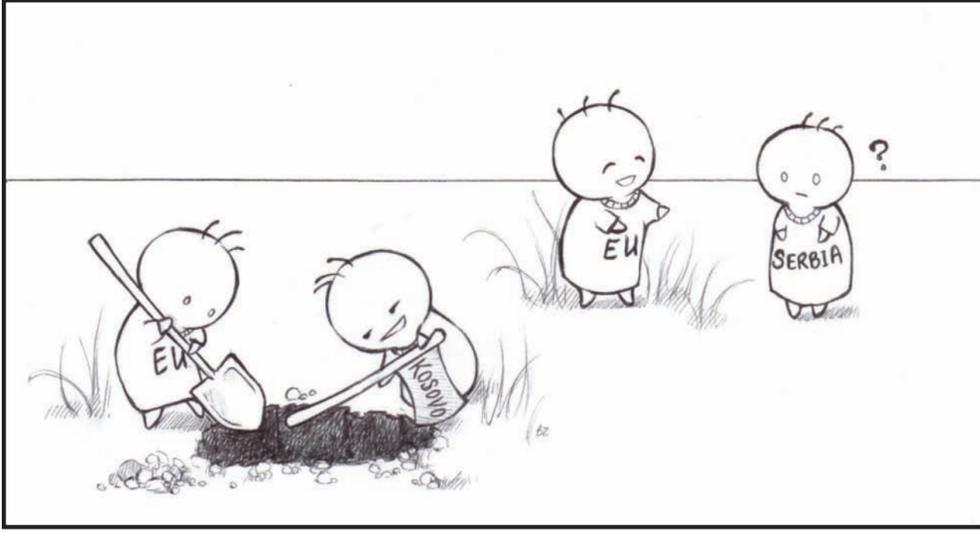
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Serbia should stand strong



BECKY ZHAO | STUDENT LIFE

Caleb Posner
Staff Columnist

As recently as 1999, there were NATO troops butchering the Serbian people under the guise of aiding the supposedly innocent Kosovars in their war against the peoples of Serbia. It marked the second time in a decade that ill-informed Western forces disregarded the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia to support the rogue independence forces of the non-Serbians. Never mind that this entailed providing support for the Kosovo Liberation Army, which had ties to al-Qaida, or the jihadi-enhanced rebel forces of Bosnia that were sustained by Wahhabist aid.

In the years leading up to, during and after these events, ample proof was found to disprove the claims of the United States and NATO regarding the events in the region. What little evidence there was of mass killing, ethnic cleansing, or genocide was usually of Serbians by the Islamist militants of Kosovo, Bosnia and Macedonia or the Croatian forces seeking a return to their nationalist glory days when they embraced Hitler with open arms. One would hope that, in light of such information, the Western powers would issue an apology, or at least cease their abuse and harassment of the Serbian people. But, to do so would require that those in charge not suffer from moral cowardice, a seemingly unreasonable expectation when it comes to political leaders. Instead, two actions were

taken.

First, a court was created to try military and political leaders from the region for various war crimes. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was designed, at least in theory, to bring to justice those who had inspired and instigated needless bloodshed in the Balkans. Unfortunately, the court has proven itself lacking in the most crucial aspect: objectivity. With a cost in excess of \$135 million a year, this specially-created temporary court has disproportionately indicted and convicted Serbians. Thus far, three-fourths of those either tried or awaiting trial are Serbian. And, when it comes time to issue verdicts, the bias is quite clear. For example, the Bosnian military leader who hid his forces among non-military personnel to provide human shields and bring about media accusations of Serbia slaughtering innocent civilians, Naser Oric, was cleared of all charges. By contrast, Vojislav Šešelj, a Serbian member of parliament who did not have any control over or involvement with the military will almost certainly spend the rest of his life behind bars because he verbally expressed nationalist sentiments and led his party to vote against surrendering to NATO. It is of course noteworthy that he is being held in prison, prevented from assuming the Assembly seat he is entitled to as the top ranking member of the popular Srpska Radikalna Stranka, while the former head of the KLA, and a man therefore directly responsible for overseeing genocide and ethnic

cleansing. Hashim Thaçi, is allowed to serve as Prime Minister of the illegally-created state of Kosovo (more on that below).

Second, after recognizing the independence of the rebel regions, they passed a U.N. resolution leaving the future status of Kosovo undecided, but affirming the

“The Bosnian military leader who hid his forces among non-military personnel to provide human shields and bring about media accusations of Serbia slaughtering innocent civilians, Naser Oric, was cleared of all charges.”

territorial integrity of Serbia to include said area. Had this been upheld, and the Serbians actually consulted in determining the ultimate outcome in Kosovo, this would've been good. Instead, continuing the dishonestly and unwelcome interference in regional affairs that defined her under Bill Clinton, the United States pushed for international recognition of Kosovo as an independent nation. From an American point of view, this was great strategy, as endors-

ing the creation of a new pro-Western Islamic state in the heart of Europe would lend credibility to a country whose image in the Middle East seemed tarnished beyond repair. Of course, it also violates the very same international legal code cited as justification for getting involved in the region initially, and only inspired increased tension there. But not even John Bolton could convince our government to avoid such a dangerous policy.

Now, after all of this, European nations, including some of the very same countries that aided the United States in the above actions, are pressuring the Serbians to join the European Union. Without an apology, or even a change in attitude toward Serbia, they insist that the tiny nation must choose between membership and isolation from the West. Given its experience with these countries, how can Serbia be expected to choose the former? Whatever benefits might come along with joining the EU are outweighed by the reasonable suspicions of the Serbian people, and the perfectly fair hostility they still have toward the nations that helped turn their homeland into a shell of her former self. So, rather than cave to the pressure of the nations who've done nothing but harm to Serbia, it is time that the leftist government stand up to reject entry into the EU and begin the restoration national dignity.

Caleb is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. He can be reached via e-mail at cposner@wustl.edu.

A few morsels about your meals

Brian Price
Staff Columnist

The student body of Wash. U. is as diverse as any, so it's no surprise the dining options on campus follow suit. Yes, I too, am often bored with the menus that never change (except for price increases that is), but I acknowledge that Bon Appétit at least tries to offer the vast majority of what college kids like to eat.

The problem, unfortunately, is that what we like to eat is rarely what we should eat. You've probably heard that you should "read the labels." Well I've read them, or at least a lot of them, and let me say I found some pretty shocking facts about the food on campus. A few tips and insights:

Who doesn't love a tasty breakfast burrito to start the day off right?

Well, your heart for one, as just one of these has more than twice the recommended daily amount of cholesterol, as well as your full dose of both saturated fat and sodium. Of course you do get half your calcium, but couldn't you just drink a couple glasses of milk instead?

For lunch, you're probably heading to the Danforth University Center (DUC). Well, something tells me the food there and in the old Mallinckrodt food court are about equal in how healthy they are, which is to say not very. Subway (while it's still here at least) is a great alternative, as it's both pleasing to the taste buds and the body. Get a foot long turkey on honey oat bread, add American cheese, toast it, and ooh-la-la. There've been more than a few times when the thought of that sandwich has been the only thing that's kept me sane during a mind-numbingly boring morning lecture.

Now here's a scary thought: one single brownie (yes, those tiny things) has about as much fat as 35 apples. Thirty-five! Seriously, why would you even think about something like that, especially when you'll probably wind up having an apple anyway after you finish your brownie and realize you're still hungry? If you absolutely must have something sweet, try a low fat muffin. Chocolate chip, cinnamon pecan, apple cinnamon or the just-debuted coconut...I'm getting hungry just thinking about them. Oh, and they taste as good as (if not better than) bran, blueberry and the like, all of which are loaded with fat and calories.

Finally, for dinner, just don't eat. Rather, don't get something you know is terrible for you just because you can. Is a double-cheeseburger with bacon and mayo

really going to taste that much better than, say, a hamburger with lettuce and tomato on it? Must you get tortilla chips with your fajita or quesadilla, or wouldn't rice and beans be just as filling?

And finally, one last word of warning. Never, and I repeat never, eat one of those pre-packaged peanut butter and jelly sandwiches sold in Bear Mart. They are (with the exception of a full order of chicken tenders) the single most unhealthy things on campus. That tiny little sandwich, the one you grab for a "light" dinner, has an unreal 1,333 calories and your entire day's worth of fat.

I don't have the faintest idea how something like this is possible, but to think I used to eat them at least once a week is just sickening.

Well that's about it, though of course I've only just scratched the

“Never, and I repeat never, eat one of those pre-packaged peanut butter and jelly sandwiches sold in Bear Mart. They are (with the exception of a full order of chicken tenders) the single most unhealthy things on campus.”

surface. It isn't all there on Bon Appétit's Web site, but you can at least get an idea.

Again, I don't want to play the role of nagging mother here, but it always pains me to see people kill themselves in the gym because they think it's the only way to avoid gaining weight, when there's always a much easier option right there in front of them. Of course exercise is always highly recommended, but just ask yourself this: Is it really worth running an hour-and-a-half just to burn off one measly PB & J sandwich? I don't think so either.

By the way, this concludes my "meddlesome advice" columns for now. Next time I'll humbly try to force my political views upon you, or something like that.

Brian is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a staff columnist. He can be reached via e-mail at brprice@wustl.edu.

Voting for the world as it should be

Michelle Obama
Op-Ed Submission

When I was a kid, my father volunteered as a precinct captain for the Democratic Party in our neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago. Some of my earliest memories are of tagging along as he went from door to door. He registered people to vote. If our neighbors needed absentee ballots, he arranged it. He helped them figure out how they'd get to the voting booth on Election Day. He did all this because he believed in the value of each person's voice in the political process. But it took me years to appreciate what he was teaching me during those walks around the neighborhood.

Like so many people, I took my right to vote for granted. I never had to march for it. I never knew what it felt like to be turned away while others were told that their voice counted. So when I got to vote for the first time, I did it dutifully—but without any excitement.

But now I feel differently. And I hope every young person in this country can learn from me. Because what my dad was trying to show me was that voting is not a dry responsibility. Participating in the political process is challenging, fascinating and fun.

Many young Americans already know this. During the past 19 months, I've traveled to every corner of the country with my husband on his thrilling campaign

for the presidency. We have been dazzled by the young people we've met. Our country is full of bright, curious, creative and passionate young men and women, who have an enormous capacity for hard work and a deep belief that a better world is possible.

So far, youth turnout in this campaign has been remarkable. More than six million young voters participated in primaries or caucuses this year. That's an increase of more than 100 percent since 2004. And at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, nearly one in five delegates were between the ages of 18 and 29.

I've seen this youthful energy and optimism before—when I met Barack, 20 years ago.

When we were first getting to know one another, Barack took me to a community meeting in a neighborhood in Chicago where people were working hard to get back on their feet after local steel plants shut down and jobs dried up. There, Barack gave a talk about his experiences as a community organizer. He spoke about the gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be. And he said that ordinary people can narrow that gap, if they work together for change.

I fell in love with that idea. It conveys a simple but powerful truth, which is illustrated every Election Day when people line up to cast their ballots. When we vote, we don't just choose a candidate. We choose to begin building the world as it should be.

For the young woman I met in Colorado, it's a world where she

can get the education she dreams of, even though her parents don't have a lot of money. For the men I met in Virginia, it's a world where returning soldiers never have to worry about getting the mental health care they might need. For the students I met in Iowa, it's a world where we invest in clean energy that ends our dependence on foreign oil and protects our environment. And for the woman I met in New York, it's a world where gays and lesbians can finally live free from discrimination.

“Like so many people, I took my right to vote for granted. I never had to march for it. I never knew what it felt like to be turned away while others were told that their voice counted.”

When we vote this November, we'll be casting our ballots for that world.

I've heard people say, "My vote doesn't matter," "My vote won't count," or, "I'm just one person. What possible difference can I make?" But this year, all our votes matter more than ever.

If you are satisfied with the

world as it is, your choice this fall is easy. But if you believe, as I do, that we can change the world together, please join me in voting on November 4.

Voting is easy. So is registering to vote. It takes just a minute, but it makes a huge difference. The Obama campaign has set up a Web site to help: www.VoteForChange.com. There, you can register to vote in your state, arrange an absentee ballot, or find out if you're already registered. In some states, you can vote early. Our Web site will help you figure that out, too.

Share this information with your friends, classmates, family and neighbors. Registration deadlines are coming up in several states, so it's crucial that we act fast. And encourage everyone you know to go to the polls on November 4.

This year, I'll be voting for my daughters' future and my father's memory. I'll vote for the thousands of regular folks who fought to get me the right to vote. And I'll vote for young people across America—and the generations of young people that will follow, who will someday look back at this time with gratitude that we summoned the courage to begin building the world as it should be.

Michelle Obama is the wife of presidential candidate Barack Obama.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column was submitted to college newspapers around Missouri. The McCain Campaign has not yet responded to Student Life's request for a submission.

REMEDIOS from page 6

first day spent spamming the Congress about opening the OCS (*cringe*), I really wondered if it was going to be worth it.

As it turns out, not only was the job worth it, but it was furthermore one of the most enlightening experiences I've ever had.

“There is such a thing as an honest lobbyist.”

For example, I now know that opening the OCS—Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf, which is currently a wildlife preserve protected by Clinton-era legislation that the Democrats in Congress are refusing to revoke—is unlikely to do anything to bring down gas prices in the near future, because it would take five to seven years at best to see any of that oil (if it's even there, which is debatable).

I know that the energy futures markets, which until three months ago I didn't even know existed, are being infiltrated with speculators who are hedging old people's retirement funds, entirely unbeknownst to those old people, and driving up oil prices to an outrageous degree (some say as much as 50 percent). The retirement funds are doing well, sure, but what good is that if the economy completely tanks before people get to retire? I know that John McCain's

Britney Spears/Paris Hilton add is a HUGE distortion of the facts about the energy crisis—the "wires tax" Obama favors would be paid by industrial consumers only (at least, as of a month ago), and pays to develop technology that will within a few years significantly DECREASE the cost of energy for average consumers even with the tax.

Not least, I know that there is such a thing as working together; there is such a thing as an honest lobbyist. I've seen my boss, the conservative Republican, testify three times before Congress and work with the leadership from both sides of the aisle—on speculation, our biggest issue of the summer, work very closely with the Democrats—to try to find a way to solve the energy crisis in a way that makes sense for everyone.

As it was put to me, "Congress can't be an expert about everything, which is why we have lobbyists. You go out there and you tell the truth, what you know to be true, and at the end of the day you'll win some and you'll lose some, but you've done what you could and you can sleep well knowing that."

Which, in short, is my point. My brief foray into the other side has reminded me just how important it is to listen to people, and to be guided not by partisan sound bites but by the issues themselves. It's election season: before we write-off the opposition, why don't we listen to them?

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

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

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Crossword

ACROSS

- Kick off
- Word with South and Seven
- Chew on
- O'Toole or Lorre
- Work for
- Add liquor to
- Battery terminal
- Valued very highly
- Ballerinas
- Saltpeter
- Box up
- Alto, CA
- Pulverized lava
- Put your foot down
- Blood class. syst.
- Pacify
- High point
- Smoking gun, e.g.
- Italian cheese city
- Hog housing
- Everglades bird
- Checkups
- Used the VCR
- Basic beliefs
- Acquire
- Way off-color
- Tack on
- __-majesty
- Black Sea area
- For all to see
- Pass a secret
- Instantaneous
- Reek
- Stable youngster
- Rotten to the core
- Spooky
- Go up and down
- E-mailed
- Look of contempt

DOWN

- Black suit
- Apartment dweller
- Posthaste
- Baggage porter
- Forest units
- Jazz sessions
- Corncob
- Gladiatorial location
- Slowpokes
- Sticking stuff
- Storyteller
- Card in the hole
- Become united
- Bent over
- Back part
- Letter fee
- MacNelly strip
- Try out for weight
- Top of the line
- Nonprofit URL ending
- Made a chess maneuver
- Classification
- Anti-fur org.
- Fired
- Every which way
- Mrs. from Montmartre
- Carve in stone
- Episodic TV show
- Pay attention
- State Building
- Hot dog
- Closer to black
- Barrel strip
- Ascends
- Bill killer
- Mark left by a whip
- Emotionless
- Cattle call
- Man of Oz

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little DUC lost

Surviving the new University Center

Scott Fabricant
Scene Reporter

New construction has been a recurring theme lately both on this campus and in this paper. It's hard to keep up. The South 40, Seigle Hall, the blessings of new parking. But one piece of progress stands out. It was the largest, most central, longest lasting and most

conspicuous piece of construction this campus has seen in years. Now that the Building Formerly Known as The Giant Hole—or Prince—is finally complete. Yes, students may be appreciative of or impressed by the new building, but the most ubiquitous feeling seems to be one of confusion. Students feel lost.

"I feel like a freshman again. It makes me uncomfortable," Dan-

ielle Wallow, a sophomore, said. "I avoid coming here."

In a highly unscientific and unrepresentative poll of students lounging in the new bakery/café, seven out of 10 revealed they feel lost or confused in the DUC. Two of the seven also felt overwhelmed, while one felt angry. One of the students who didn't feel lost still thought the building was poorly designed.

The University anticipated this confusion, and posted part-time workers in the dining area to help steer students in the right direction. That woman in the bright green shirt holding a sign saying "Vegetarian!" is not a protester.

"What we do is hold these signs and help the students get around, help them figure out where the food stations are, and if they need any help finding out

where another building is," said Austria, the staff member holding the vegetarian sign.

According to Austria, one or two students really did confuse them for protesters, and she's gotten more than a few weird looks when she's had to stand between two stations holding the signs 'Vegetarian' and 'Chicken' together.

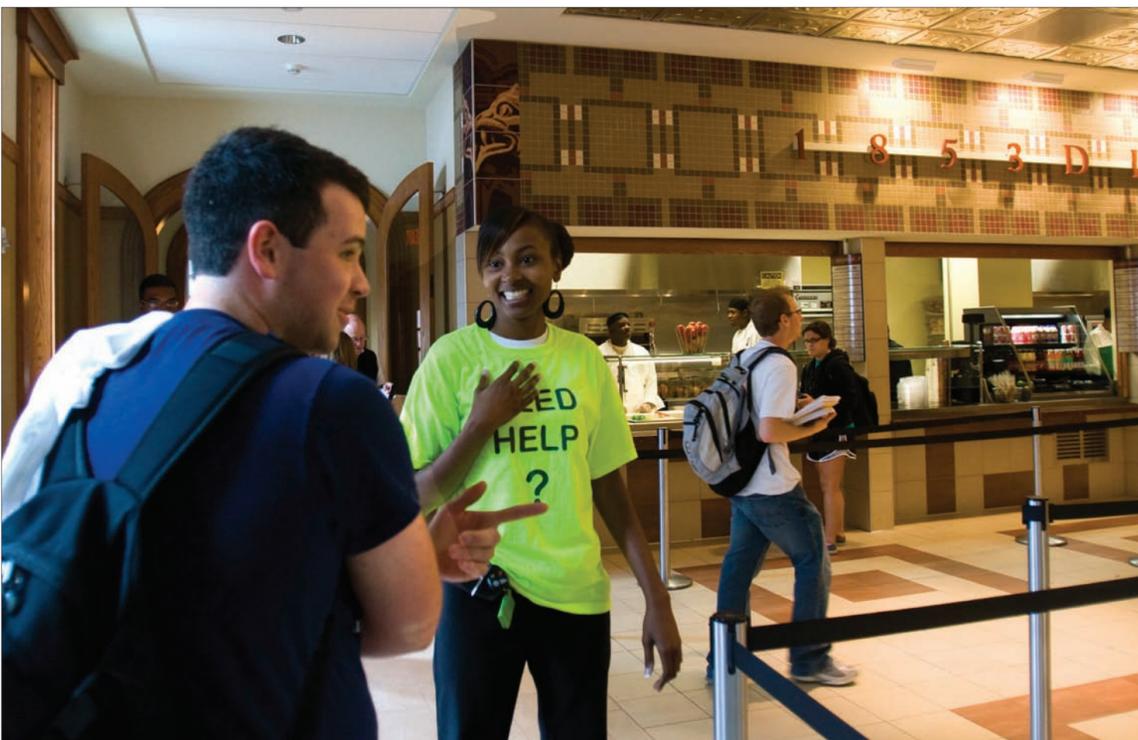
The posted staff is useful, but don't get reliant on them. Austria suggested this may be their last week on the job. Its time to fend for yourselves and learn the layout.

The layout of the DUC can be confusing. Hallways branch in three directions. Computers and silverware are hidden in niches. Staff offices are tucked away, and it's a crapshoot what floor they're on. Stairs are everywhere, and one or two of them lead to nowhere. But the worst problem seems to be the crowds.

"There are too many people milling around for you to be able to get a good idea of where you

are, and what all the facilities consist of. I think if a single one of us really knew where we were going, it wouldn't be so frustrating." Nicole Weissman, a senior, said. "I don't think the DUC being too crowded is ultimately going to be as big of a problem as people were expecting. The problem is just right now, while we're trying to get acquainted with the [building]."

So, start exploring. Pick a random time in the evening, and simply walk around. Know your food court. Find Ibbey's. Go to the second floor and find the hidden computers. Watch television and play free Pac-Man. Meet the affable staff of Student Union and the Office of Student Activities in the side office. Go to the south end and have the Career Center look over a résumé. Get interviewed by your friendly neighborhood reporters here at *Student Life*. Make the DUC your jungle gym and start exploring. The more you use it, the more you'll know it.



Ronnesha helps Rob Montgomery find his way in the Danforth Center. The part-time guides helped students adjust to the Danforth Center and become acclimated to the new environment.



PHOTOS BY JENNY SHAO | STUDENT LIFE

INNOVATIVE OR INADEQUATE?



Spencer Goodman
Scene Reporter

I have one of those roommates. You guessed it—one of those environmental types, the one who complains when you leave the lights on, who whines when you use a plastic bottle and who even asks the RAs if your dorm's roof has solar panels on it.

Yeah, I got that one. I had heard of Washington University's efforts to "green up" the school, but I had no idea they would place an 18-year-old Al Gore in the bed across the room from me.

Although I sarcastically bemoan his cries for environmental sustainability, my roommate has actually influenced me to take part in Wash. U.'s efforts to become more environmentally friendly.

"Don't forget your canvas grocery bag. Plastic bags aren't biodegradable," he asserts as we leave our dorm for Schnucks. I race back into my room and grab the canvas bag, aggravated that I forgot it once again. Before Orientation, the Wash. U. Alumni Association provided students with reusable canvas bags in an effort to reduce the use of plastic bags. This was only one of many efforts by the school to increase environmental awareness among the student body. Students were given canteens upon moving in, as plastic water bottles will soon be

unavailable for purchase on campus. In the near future, Student Union will also provide every incoming freshman with a free flash drive containing information that is usually printed and given to them.

Moreover, this year's freshman class read and engaged in floor discussions regarding Elizabeth Kolbert's "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change," a book written to inform the public of the precarious state of our environment and of the dire consequences of quiescence. The school has definitely made a concerted effort to inform students and eliminate destructive habits, but questions still invariably remain as to its effectiveness.

"I have noticed that a lot of people carry their own [cloth] bags...and they're using [fewer] plastic bags," said Pamela Taylor, a clerk at Bear Mart. Although these actions by the students should be seen as highly commendable, the motives behind such actions are undoubtedly cast under a bright light. Do they represent a genuine, long-term concern for the world's sustainability or are they simply quick fixes?

"There's not a lot of concern [for the globe's environmental crisis] among students, though there should be," freshman Deanna Parrish bluntly stated. She feels that the school's green campaign is to some degree artificial—that

it doesn't actually aim to solve our environmental crisis, but rather places a temporary band-aid on the issue. For instance, it is unlikely that students will make the extra effort to recycle once they've graduated and discover that the rest of the country isn't dotted with recycle bins on every corner. Other students agree with this assertion.

"The University doesn't have that many substantive initiatives to really impact climate change," freshman Zak Hill said. Although the student body finds it easier to be more environmentally friendly, students should not take these initiatives at face value and simply do the bare minimum of what is expected of them. They must put in the extra effort to continue the dialogue, not just now, but throughout their four years here. Their efforts should be focused on changing their harmful habits and the way they view humans' responsibility in the world's environmental crisis. An hour-and-a-half long floor discussion is a good first step, but it is by no means the solution.

Even though my roommate and I may not agree on what temperature to set the room at or what music to listen to while we study, we always manage to agree on one important issue: The school's environmental campaign isn't an end within itself, but rather a means to the end of frivolity and inaction.

Word on the Street

What's the most essential thing you forgot to bring to college?



"I forgot a hairbrush, so I bought one like right away when I got here."
-Christine Taylor, Freshman

"Rain boots—it would have to be rain boots. As soon as the storm on Thursday finished, I called my parents and they sent them up to me."
-Melanie Huttner, Freshman

"A winter coat—I think I'm going over Thanksgiving break to get one, so hopefully I don't need it before then."
-Kai Wang, Junior



"Movies. I only grabbed a couple. I mean, you have activities, classes and homework, but even with all that, you still need weekend things to do in your room."
-Laura Edison, Freshman



"I don't have any winter stuff, so that'll probably catch up to me."
-Dustin Palmer, Sophomore