

Barack Obama and John McCain have differing points of view on educational policy.



Three budding Wash. U. playwrights will display their talents this weekend at the A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival.



Alan Alda spoke on campus Monday night. Since the talk was not free to students, *Student Life* was there to bring it to you.



STUDENT LIFE

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Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Suspects apprehended after two weekend laptop thefts

Perry Stein and Ben Sales
News Editors

On Saturday morning, two laptops were reported missing from a suite on the first floor of Hurd Dormitory.

The Washington University Police Department (WUPD) has apprehended three suspects in connection with the theft, and one of the laptops was returned. Police are searching for the second, which they believe to be held by a fourth suspect.

According to an e-mail from WUPD Chief Don Strom, the arrested suspects had attended a

party in Hurd on Friday night, at which time they stole the laptops. Police identified the suspects, and when the suspects came back to the South 40 on Saturday night, WUPD and Clayton Police officers were waiting in the area.

WUPD recovered two laptops on Sunday morning as a result of the arrests, one from the theft on Friday and one stolen from Lopata House on Sept. 2.

Sophomore resident Antonia Ferguson, whose laptop was stolen and not returned, said that she and Beth Heger—whose laptop was stolen but recovered—were hosting two prospective students and left the door propped open at 11 p.m. on Friday night. She thinks

the door was shut at midnight but added that it may have remained open until 2 a.m.

Upon returning to her suite, Ferguson said that she and Heger noticed that two laptops were missing but did not report the incident to WUPD until Saturday morning because they thought that another suitemate may have moved the laptops for safety reasons.

Three wallets were in the vicinity of the laptops but were not stolen.

On Saturday night, Ferguson and Heger were in Hitzeman Hall when they heard loud noises from the balcony overlooking Wallace Drive.

"We saw around six police cars

surrounding one car that had four men in it," Heger said. "The police had their guns out and were pointing. They had the men get on the ground and patted them down. The [police] were yelling."

Although Ferguson said the suspects did not appear to be doing anything dangerous and police officers were not using excessive force, she and Heger heard them threaten to shoot the suspects.

Heger added that the suspects "were responding to the police officers. When they told [the suspects] to get on the ground they got on the ground."

While Strom did not comment

See **THEFT**, page 8

Search for new dean underway



DAVID HARTSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE ARCHIVES

Provost Edward Macias, sitting between Chancellor Mark Wrighton and Dean James McLeod, speaks at the tuition forum on Dec. 4, 2007. In April 2008, Macias left his position as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences to become University provost; a search committee is currently working to find a permanent replacement for the Arts & Sciences deanship.

Laruen Olens
Contributing Reporter

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Richard Smith.

According to Wertsch, the new dean should be concerned with bringing many different groups of people together, including students, faculty, the different departments in ArtSci and all of the colleges within the University.

"What we need for a dean is someone who thinks of all of Arts & Sciences—not just one field—and someone who can get faculty and students to think about ArtSci [together]," Wertsch said. "The whole is greater than the parts."

In addition, the new dean must be able to understand the culture of the University. Wertsch said that because the University keeps a "very civil institutional culture," it is necessary that the new dean is comfortable with the community.

See **MACIAS**, page 3

With former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Edward Macias slated to become the provost of Washington University beginning in the year 2009, an advisory committee of administrators is in the midst of searching for a new Arts & Sciences dean who would assume the position July 1, 2009.

According to Professor Jim Wertsch, co-chair of the search committee, no top candidate has been identified in the search, which is still in its early stages.

Aside from Wertsch, the advisory committee includes Co-chair Elzbieta Sklodowska; professor in Arts & Sciences (ArtSci), ArtSci National Council Member John Clear; Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Mary Ann Dzuback and Dean of the

Students question impact of mailings on environment

Chloe Rosenberg
Contributing Reporter

Some students and parents have addressed the need for colleges—including Washington University—to be more environmentally conscientious when sending mail to prospective students.

When high school students complete the PSAT during their sophomore and junior years, the College Board, given the students' permission, sells the information to various universities around the nation.

Washington University is one such buying institution. The Office

of Undergraduate Admissions continues the process of freshman recruitment by sending out mailings to those students.

Once high school seniors are accepted into the University, they continue to receive mail from the school as a way for the University to keep enrolled students informed.

"If they made an effort to send a lot of mailings in e-mail form, it would reduce our administration's use of paper," Co-President of Green Action Will Fischer, a junior, said. "I believe e-mail would be equally effective."

Freshman Courtney Safir said she chose to allow the College Board to

give out her information to colleges and was interested in the mailings from the University's admissions office despite their environmental effect.

"I loved it actually," Safir said. "It was a bit ridiculous, but I felt that they really wanted me. I read pretty much all of them except for when I started to get repeats."

According to Director of Undergraduate Admissions Nanette Tarbouni, the admissions office has taken certain environmentally-conscious steps.

"We continue to eliminate communications that seem unnecessary," Tarbouni wrote in an e-mail to *Stu-*

dent Life. "Also, our electronic communications have expanded dramatically during the last few years."

Much of the mail that the admissions office sends is printed on recycled paper. Students also have the opportunity to remove themselves from the University's mailing list.

Not all applicants, however, feel comfortable stopping the flow of letters.

"I found myself throwing out the mail I got from Wash. U., but I felt uncomfortable taking myself off of their mailing list because I did not want it to seem like I was not in-

See **MAILINGS**, page 2

SUICIDE IS PAINLESS AND OTHER THOUGHTS



SAM GUZIK | STUDENT LIFE

Actor and author Alan Alda spoke on Monday night in Graham Chapel at the kickoff event for the 2008 Big Read festival. The festival, which formally takes place on Saturday, Oct. 11, is a celebration of literature and literacy that features major authors, workshops and booths to engage young readers.

Student voters run into trouble on VA campuses

David Messenger
and Catie Gainer
Contributing Reporters

As this election cycle has drawn an unprecedented amount of youth participation, the youth vote has encountered many challenges.

A fracas was recently set off in Virginia, a key battleground state, over college student voter registration.

In late August, the Obama campaign organized a voter registration drive for students of Virginia Tech, located in Blacksburg, Virginia. In response, the local elections commission immediately distributed a set of press releases that implied serious consequences for students registering to vote using their college addresses.

Among other things, the press releases claimed that students choosing to register at their college addresses were at risk of losing their status as dependents on their parents' tax returns. The releases also stated that the students could potentially lose scholarship money and coverage under their parents' insurance policies.

"The Code of Virginia states that a student must declare a legal residence in order to register," the statement read. "By making Montgomery County your permanent residence, you have declared your independence from your parents and can no longer be claimed as a

dependent on their income tax filings."

The statement also said that students receiving scholarships could lose their funding as a result of an address change and that students who changed addresses must change their driver's license and insurance registration to Virginia within 30 days of the address change.

The statements made by the elections commission have been discredited and proven false by several sources.

For example, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has denied that students seeking to vote will have their tax filing status affected in any way.

The elections commission has come out in defense, stating that these warnings were meant simply to caution the students to evaluate the consequences of registering to vote out of state.

Missouri, in contrast, has not faced similar youth voter registration issues. Many students at Washington University note the ease with which they were able to register to vote.

"I haven't heard of any major issues of important officials spreading those lies regarding youth voter registration," senior Sophie Cohen, coordinator for Washington University's chapter of Students for Barack Obama, said. "I know some people who have misconceptions of other

states." According to the Web site of the Brennan Center for Justice, a non-partisan public policy and law institute, "Students in Missouri are free to register and vote using their school address. Registering to vote in Missouri may be considered an abandonment of your voting residency in your old state."

While there is a general consensus among students choosing to vote in Missouri that they faced no problems in registering to vote, many are concerned about rumors that have been circulating regarding the impact of registering to vote out of state.

"A sophomore from California in one of my classes said that he chose to register in his home state, and not in Missouri, simply because he risked losing his privilege to in-state tuition for graduate school," freshman Will Stock said.

According to Cohen, many students have approached her with their concerns over registering out of state, which she has discredited.

Virginia is the not the only state in which such youth voter registration obstacles have arisen.

According to Kristen Oshyn, a program director at the Century Foundation, a non-profit public policy institution, election boards will frequently target one section

See **VOTERS**, page 3

THE FLIPSIDE

eventcalendar

WEDNESDAY 24

The U.S. Economy in the Consumer Age
Assembly Series
4 p.m., Women's Building Formal Lounge
Steven Fazzari, Ph.D., professor of economics in the college of Arts & Sciences, will be discussing the economic conditions that have contributed to our nation's current financial crisis.

Why Should I Care Who the Vice President Is?
VP Debate Planning Committee

7 p.m., Women's Building Formal Lounge
The VP Debate Program Planning Committee is presenting VP Expert Joel Goldstein, Vincent C. Immel Professor of Law at Saint Louis University, who will be giving a speech on the importance of the vice presidency in our nation's government.

THURSDAY 25

'What's Wrong With a Little Porno?'
Pornography and Gender Violence
M.O.R.E.

4:30-5:30 p.m., Ursa's Fireside
Men Organized for Rape Education (M.O.R.E.), in collaboration with several other student groups on campus, will be presenting a workshop on pornography as a form of violence against women. The discussion will be led by Rus Funk, MSW, founder of Menswork Inc.

newsbriefs

International

Lamb-eating sea eagles have Scots up in arms

A sea eagle reintroduction program in northwest Scotland has touched off a firestorm of controversy among farmers there, who claim the eagles threaten their well-being by killing more than 200 lambs a year.

The eagles, which are one of Britain's largest bird of prey and have a wingspan of up to eight feet and weigh up to 18 pounds, are notorious for snatching sheep grazing on Scottish hills.

"In a few years time there'll be no sheep left on the hills," William Fraser, a chairman in the Scottish Crofting Foundation, told Reuters.

The reintroduction of the sea eagles by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) comes after the birds experienced a precipitous population decline in the early 20th century.

Scottish farmers have suggested that those sea eagles that have already been reintroduced should be taken elsewhere. (Dan Woznica)

National

Starving Polar bears turn cannibal as Arctic sea ice disappears

Faced with the melting of many of their former sea ice habitats, polar bears in northern Alaska and elsewhere in the Arctic have been attacking and eating each other in increasing numbers, scientists say.

The cannibalism has arisen as polar bears have lost many of their food sources, a result of sea ice melting that scientists say is due to global warming. As the habitat of this threatened species continues to alter drastically, more incidents are being reported of polar bears starving, drowning and attacking each other.

In one documented incident, a male Alaskan polar bear entered a female's den and killed her.

The continued loss of habitat holds an even greater threat for the polar bear's future. In a press release last May, U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne stated that arctic sea ice melting puts polar bears "at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future." (Dan Woznica)

Campus

Cheap Lunch rates to increase by one dollar

Beginning today, students purchasing any of the Cheap Lunch combos offered at Lopata Gallery by the School of Engineering will pay \$3 for two slices of pizza, a soda and chips, and \$4 for four slices, a soda, chips and cookies. This is in comparison to the \$2 and \$3, respectively, that students paid for the same combos last year. (Dan Woznica)

Washington University's Barnes-Jewish Hospital ranked 12th on "Best Hospitals" List

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, which is closely associated with Washington University, was ranked 12th in a recent ranking of the nation's best hospitals in U.S. News and World Report.

The rankings examined 5,462 medical centers, with 173 making the list. Barnes-Jewish Hospital was also ranked in a number of specialty lists. It is ranked 21st among hospitals for cancer treatment; sixth for ear, nose and throat care; ninth in heart surgery; eighth in neurology and neurosurgery; and 14th in psychiatry.

A number of other hospitals in the St. Louis area also received rankings in the list. (Kelly Fahy)

weatherforecast

WEDNESDAY 24

Sunny
High 85
Low 59



THURSDAY 25

Sunny
High 83
Low 56



policebeat

AUTO ACCIDENT Sept. 20, 2008-Saturday at 12:51 a.m.
Location: SNOW WAY GARAGE
Summary: Witness observed and reported a black SUV strike a parked vehicle and leave the scene. Disposition: Under investigation.

BURGLARY Sept. 20, 2008-Saturday at 10:58 a.m.
Location: HURD DORM
Summary: Complainant reports the theft of laptop computers from the common area of their room. Value \$2,200. Disposition: Arrest made, one laptop recovered.

PROPERTY DAMAGE Sept. 21, 2008-Sunday at 3:20 a.m.
Location: PARKING LOT #54
Summary: White Dodge Charger Station Wagon with IL plates ran over a Clayco Construction sign & fled from officers. Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY Sept. 21, 2008-Sunday at 11:21 a.m.

Location: GIVENS HALL
Summary: Student left unsecured laptop in an open area overnight and found it missing the next morning. Value \$800. Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY Sept. 21, 2008-Sunday at 3:07 p.m.
Location: WHITTAKER BIO-MEDICAL
Summary: Student reports she parked her bike at the bike racks on the West side at Whittaker Hall on Sep. 18, 2008, at approximately noon and found it missing on Sept. 21 at approximately 2 p.m. Value \$400. Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY Sept. 21, 2008-Sunday at 11:55 p.m.
Location: OLIN LIBRARY
Summary: Unattended IPOD "Touch" valued at \$500 stolen from second floor of Olin Library on Sept. 21, 2008 between 11:13 and 11:23 p.m. Disposition: Pending.

quoteoftheday

"I loved it actually. It was a bit ridiculous, but I felt that they really wanted me. I read pretty much all of them except for when I started to get repeats."

Courtney Safir, freshman, on getting mail from Wash. U. as a prospective student

MAILINGS from page 1

terested in my number one school," freshman Jessi Mischel said.

Campus organizations, such as the Student Entrepreneurial Program (StEP), send information about the services offered by their programs to incoming freshmen via mail starting the summer before students' freshman year.

"It is definitely effective," junior Eric Gendal, co-owner of South 40 Video, said of the practice of sending mail to incoming freshmen. "Environmentally, it is done the best way by getting everyone to do a mailer together."

StEP sends out a consolidated package to incoming freshmen, including information from multiple student-run businesses, instead of having each business send out mail separately. The University does not provide the StEP program with a comprehensive list of e-mail addresses for students at the University.

Although students do receive e-mails from the University, most of their information comes via traditional mail, which some students appreciate.

"I read pretty much all of them," Safir said of the mailings. "The more I read, the more I liked it. That is why I am here."

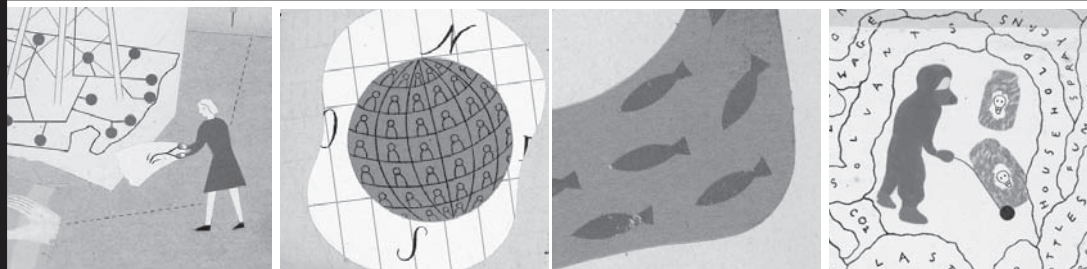
fortherecord

An article on Monday, September 22 incorrectly reported that Case Western Reserve University defeated the University of Rochester in a UAA football game on September 13. While Case Western did in fact win and while both schools are members of the UAA, Rochester competes in the Liberty League in football. Only Wash. U., Case Western, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Chicago compete in the UAA in football.

Student life regrets the errors

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MACIAS from page 1

Another factor in the search is the diversity at the University. According to a letter sent to ArtSci faculty about the search for the dean, the committee hired consulting firm Storbeck and Pimentel who "are especially attentive to the issues of professional access for women and underrepresented minorities."

"I don't think anybody on the committee would say [the new dean] has to be a woman, but we certainly are going to be looking really hard for women and underrepresented minorities," Wertsch said.

The committee is not requiring applicants to have previously served as deans.

Since the search is in its preliminary stages, there are no candidates whose names or credentials can be released to the wider community.

According to Wertsch, many applicants would not want to apply unless they received confirmation that the process is strictly confidential.

"We'd love to have more people in the applicant pool than fewer," Wertsch said.

Wertsch added that the best way to contact the University about applying for the position is to contact the search committee and then apply directly to the firm.

In conjunction with the efforts of the consulting firm, advertisements have been placed regarding the job announcement. The ad was printed in the Chronicle of Higher Education and the



Making the cut for ArtSci Dean

The search committee is looking several qualities in the new Dean. They want someone who is:

- Ambitious
- A well known scholar
- Respected world-wide
- Able to oversee entire school, including the graduate school and undergraduate school
- Concerned about bringing different groups of people together
- Filled with ideas for Washington University's future
- Able to bring the University to the next level
- Able to understand the "civil institutional culture" of the University
- Familiar with administrative responsibilities

Hispanic Outlook, among other publications, in September.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing the applications and credentials of the candidates by October and hopes to narrow down the list to three to five potential choices by December.

These applicants' names will then be passed on to Chancellor Mark Wrighton.

After the chancellor makes his selection, the applicants will be introduced to the wider community so that their fit with the University can be properly assessed.

The ArtSci National Council, ArtSci faculty and students will all be given the

opportunity to provide input toward the decision.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, Macias will take on his new role as University provost—a position he once held from 1988 to 1995. The main responsibility of the provost is to unify and coordinate the efforts of all colleges within the University. There has been no University provost since Macias last served in the position.

Although Macias will be changing his position within the University, his time as the Dean of ArtSci will be missed.

"Dean Macias has been a terrific dean," Wertsch said.

VOTERS from page 1

of the population.

"Election commissions exercise voter caging," Oshyn said. "They will target a specific population's registrations."

In Georgia, there was an instance of severe voter intimidation directed at students. The local election board challenged students' registrations due to them registering at college addresses. Sixty percent of registered voters who were challenged didn't end up voting.

Registration laws in New Mexico and Arizona caused trouble for students in the 2006 elections, as both states require an in-state drivers' license, a passport or birth certificate to register—identification that few out-of-state students tend to carry with them.

In a section of its Web site devoted to student registration,

South Carolina's Election Commission states that students may only register to vote where they attend college if they demonstrate "a present intention to remain in the community."

The number of cases of student voter intimidation in the current election cycle is not very different from the number of like incidents in the past.

"I don't think youth voter intimidation is necessarily more prevalent in this election," Oshyn said. "Youth participation has been so high. There has been interest in the campaign in general. I would venture that it is more an instance of awareness."

The Obama campaign expressed confidence that Missouri students would not be prevented from voting.

"We know that students are

more engaged in this election than in any time in modern history because they know this is a crucial election," Debbie Mesloh, director of communications for Obama's Missouri campaign, said. "Missouri students also know they have the right to vote, and if anyone tells them otherwise, they will demand it."

With Missouri's Oct. 8 voter registration deadline approaching, students are being warned not to allow rumors to impede their right to vote.

"We are reminding students that their residency cannot be taken away," Cohen said. "Anything election boards are telling students to prevent them from registering could be lies."



LANE GOODMAN | STUDENT LIFE

Students registered to vote at r, one of 11 different registration spots on campus last Thursday. That registration drive was one of many efforts to mobilize the student electorate this year.

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Apply end: 9/24

Accenture, Various locations

Recruiting for: Consulting Analyst, Management Consultant, Technology Consulting Analyst

Majors: All majors

Apply end: 9/25

General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

Recruiting for: Financial Leadership Development Program-Financial Analyst

Majors: MACC, MSBA, MSF, Economics, Business, Mathematics

Apply end: 9/26

Kohls Department Stores, Menomonee Falls, WI

Recruiting for: Merchandise Analyst Trainee

Majors: MACC, MSBA, MSF, Business, Communications & Journalism, Economics

Apply end: 9/30

RBC Capital Markets, New York, NY

Recruiting for: Global Debt Markets Rotational Program

Majors: All majors

Apply end: 9/30

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA

Recruiting for: Patent Examiners

Majors: Biological and Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical & Systems Engineering, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Physics

Apply end: 9/30

Bloomingdale's, New York, NY

Recruiting for: Executive Buyer's Training Program

Majors: All majors

Apply end: 10/1

INTERNSHIPS

ConAgra Foods, Inc., Edina, MN; Naperville, IL; Omaha, NE

Recruiting for: Finance Summer Intern

Majors: MACC, MSBA, MSF, Business, Economics (Majors & Minors), Mathematics (Majors & Minors)

Apply end: 9/26

General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

Recruiting for: Financial Leadership Development Program-Financial Analyst Intern

Majors: MACC, MSBA, MSF, Economics, Business, Mathematics

Apply end: 9/26

Deloitte & Touche, Chicago, IL

Recruiting for: Business Analyst Summer Scholar

Majors: All majors

Apply end: 9/29

ExxonMobil Corporation, Various locations

Recruiting for: Engineering Intern

Majors: Electrical & Systems Engineering; Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering; Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering; Mathematics

Apply end: 9/30

Kohls Department Stores, Menomonee Falls, WI

Recruiting for: Buying Office Internship

Majors: MACC, MSBA, MSF, Business, Communications & Journalism, Economics

Apply end: 9/30

Twist Marketing, St. Louis, MO

Recruiting for: Summer Media Intern

Majors: All majors

Apply end: 9/30

INFO SESSIONS

Target (Corporate Management Division), 9/24 @ 6:30 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 242

Walter P. Moore, 9/25 @ 6:30 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 232

Susquehanna International Group, LLP, 9/25 @ 7 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 234

General Mills, 10/6 @ 6:30 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 232

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finding Your First Job Workshop

9/25, 4-5 PM in Danforth University Center, Career Center Conference Room 111

Finding an Internship

9/26, 2-3 PM in Danforth University Center, Room 234

What I Did at My Summer Communication Design Internship

10/1, 5-6:15 PM in Kemp Auditorium, Givens Hall

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10/7, 11 AM - 3 PM in the Athletic Complex

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Make time for students to vote

As Washington University works to set its calendar for the next several years, it needs to seriously consider "Democracy Day." Last year, students advocating a day off of school on election day pushed for "Democracy Day" to be a Washington University holiday. At *Student Life*, we believe that such a day would truly facilitate voting for students and further the University's mission to inculcate democratic values.

It's certainly easy to dismiss arguments for a day off for voting as an excuse students have invented to skip class. But for many students walking to polls, it does require a sacrifice to balance voting with classes and work or extracurricular responsibilities. And forcing students to choose between waiting in line at the polls and attending class is forcing them to choose between education and civic

application of that education, both of which are important.

A significant purpose of the University is to educate citizens so that they can contribute meaningfully to the democratic process. This means the University should be working to teach the population that enters its doors the value of participating in government. Quite clearly, voting is an important component of participation in democracy. But asking students to choose between voting and learning is telling them that they must choose between personal success and contributing to societal growth. And, forced with this decision, many students will decide they don't have time to vote. Instead of habituating students to contribute to government, the University will be contributing to a habit of neglect.

The University ought to more

deeply consider its obligation to promote and encourage civic engagement over the next few years and reflect those values through its calendar planning. However, official future considerations and plans will do nothing to facilitate the University's input into the deep and complex issues currently facing our nation. Given the importance of this election for so many critical issues—and the choice between two drastically different world views and solutions for those issues—we believe action is necessary to encourage our community to vote now.

Since the University likely will not officially cancel classes on election day to ensure that students have time to get to the polls and vote, we encourage professors to take the initiative and ask students in their classes if holding class would inhibit students'

ability to vote. If professors find that canceling class would help students make time to vote, they should cancel class. If enough professors engage in canceling class, the University is more likely to make it a policy.

Students also need to take initiative and voice the difficulties of finding time to vote in the middle of a Tuesday so that their professors understand the situation and recognize the opportunity to alleviate it.

The University educates both students and citizens, and the University must recognize the value of these dual roles as well as the nature of resulting time conflicts. It is time to embrace the civic goals of education and send a clear message about the value of civic participation. Make sure students can vote without missing lecture; go ahead and declare a "Democracy Day."

We deserve better

Dennis Sweeney
Forum Editor

Dear Washington University in St. Louis,

You do not care about your students. I sound like Kanye West, certainly. "George Bush doesn't care about black people." But maybe Kanye was right. And maybe I am too.

Every single day of class at Washington University, every single day, I have had to walk around a giant construction site that was directly in the middle of my pathway to campus. The last two years, it was the Danforth University Center (DUC). This year, it is the new Umrath and the new Wohl. I don't mind the construction. I even—gasp!—understand its necessity.

But I do not understand why I had no idea what the DUC was going to be besides "a new student center" until it opened this fall. And I do not understand why I have been told nothing besides "there will be a new Umrath and a new Wohl next year" about the construction site that wakes me up every morning.

You have made one effort to inform your students about the construction projects that affect their lives everyday: You have put signs up with images of the computer-generated future South 40, and signs that tell us not to enter the construction site. Have you visited reslife.wustl.edu and clicked on "Construction News," in the top-right corner lately? Perhaps you have not noticed (you are not aware of this?) the sickening lack of coverage on an issue that beeps and grinds in our ears for eight hours every day and will obstruct views and paths for one half of the Wash. U. student population for an entire year.

You never told me, Washington University, that the Athletic Complex would be closed for a week and a half before the vice presidential debate. I barely noticed a sign that told me so when I was in the gym this Sunday. Who broke the news? *Student Life* did.

You never told me, Washington University, that classes after 3 p.m. would be canceled the day of the debate. My teacher did.

You never told me how few spots are available to give to students for the vice presidential

debate—100-150. You never told me how many signed up for the lottery—nearly 6,000.

I never knew that laptops were being stolen out of rooms in dormitories on the South 40. When I found out from *Student Life* that the suspects were arrested, I did not know there was even anything for which to be suspected or arrested.

Washington University, I love your counterpart, Wash. U. The part of you that is made up of hard-working students, of people who care about other people, of people who

Washington University, I love your counterpart, Wash. U. The part of you that is made up of hard-working students, of people who care about other people, of people who struggle through the daily grind with mind-blowing energy.

struggle through the daily grind with mind-blowing energy—I call that part of you "Wash. U."

What is Wash. U.? Everything. What has it been until now in the eyes of Washington University? Nothing. What does it want to be? Something.

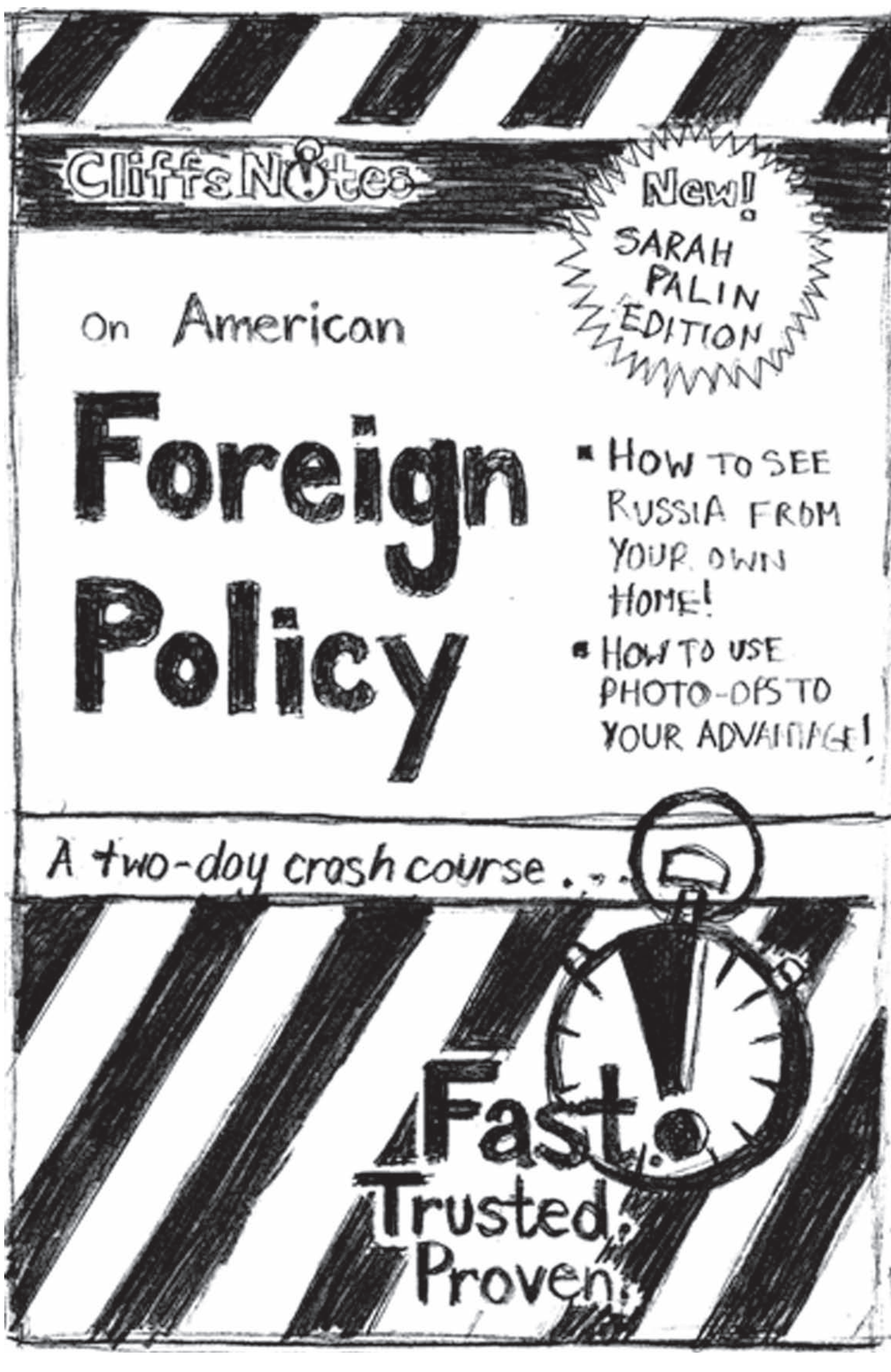
Wash. U. deserves better. We deserve better.

But you have not given it to us. We deserve communication. We deserve to know more than "Welcome to this school, you will do great things," and "Treasure this school as you go forth and do great things." We deserve a basic understanding of what goes on within the administration of our own university. We deserve transparency—and active transparency.

We deserve better. Now give it to us, Washington University.

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

GODIVA REISENBICHLER EDITORIAL CARTOON



You lookin' at me, punk?

Brent Sherman
Staff Columnist

The old adage says, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Well, I'm sorry, but I just have to. So do you. You're hardwired to do it. One example is the beauty bias. In short, people assume that someone who is beautiful is also smart, virtuous and just plain better than someone who is not as beautiful.

Sure, you can try to overcome the wiring, but the average person simply goes with the flow. So, no matter how enlightened you may feel that you don't immediately write off ugly people, plenty of others are doing just that, so you'd be doing yourself a favor to look your best.

I hope I'm preaching to the choir, but if not I'll illustrate why I think that people are completely right to judge you by your appearance. If you're overweight, then people would

be right to assume that you're not concerned about your health. If you always show up wearing the same T-shirt and sweatpants, then people have to start to wonder if you ever do laundry.

This idea might seem really shallow, but what I'm getting at is that your appearance is not just superficial. How you present yourself is a part of yourself. When you look at someone and can tell that they spend some time in the gym, it says something about

their values.

A psychology study found that people who smile are happier and that people who frown are sadder. Perhaps we can extend this idea to the realm of apparel. Does wearing black help make a goth have a more pessimistic outlook? Does wearing a suit put you in the business mindset?

If you went to Friday's career fair, the college uniform of a T-shirt and

See **SHERMAN**, page 5

Abstinence only: a one-sided and ineffective story

Anna Sobotka
Staff Columnist

In ninth grade, I was part of an Abstinence by Choice Program; once a week for eight weeks of the school year, I went to the middle school in my district and told them not to have sex—and I didn't even realize it. I suppose the title of the program should have been the first big clue, but in my mind it was a course more about being safe and thoughtful than about abstaining altogether. Besides, the program directors never asked us if we were sexually active when we signed up. I remember all of the discussion themes we had to cover and the silly trivia games about Chlamydia and HIV. In my political ignorance, I was blissfully unaware that our government had already set in motion the prevention of sex education programs in schools, and instead wanted them to be entirely replaced by abstinence programming.

Looking back, I don't think understanding the distinction between abstinence only and sex ed. programs would really have mattered—it was a volunteer position that involved missing class. Now it makes a world of difference.

As many of us know, Gov. Sarah Palin, the attractive and sarcastic running mate of John McCain is a strong and unyielding supporter of abstinence-only programs. She is also the mother of a 17-year-old pregnant, unmarried daughter. Google this phenomenon and literally hundreds of thousands of pages

show up, most of them sneering at Palin's obvious failure and laughing at her continued support of a system that didn't work for her own daughter.

My initial response was to do the same; I don't understand how such a dedicated and quick-witted woman could not see the blatant failure of her own system.

It seems to me that there is a slightly lower rate of sexual activity among students participating in abstinence only programs, but they are also less knowledgeable about contraceptives and have a lower rate of actual contraceptive usage. To me, this is not a reasonable trade.

After all, if such a devout supporter can't instill her values into her children, how can she expect all of the parents and schools in America to be able to instill such values when they have fewer resources and opportunities? But, to me, political sneers by pompous, close-minded liberals are even more irksome than political banter with close-minded conservatives. So I decided to take a look at abstinence programming.

My mediocre research, admittedly, **See SOBOTKA**, page 5

Everything must go

Charlie Bohlen
Staff Columnist

Perhaps the most disconcerting thing about our current financial crisis is its opacity. Not that I expect catastrophic market collapse to be a particularly transparent affair, but I feel as if much of the gravity of our situation is lost in the phrasing. "Credit default swap" sounds like something your mom would drive to in her station wagon, not something poised to obliterate our national optimism. "Subprime mortgage," "bank holding company," "bailout": These words just don't seem to bring it home to people. So here's a trick I've borrowed from an inspired Los Angeles Times headline: I'm going to show you a number.

700,000,000,000.

That's the number of dollars the president is asking Congress to spend to salvage the banking industry. These are our taxes. That little earmark off your summer job's paycheck, your parents' reason for buying Quicken, that thing libertarians hate even more than their fathers: tax dollars. Ours. Look at that number again. You are now free to turn over a car. But first, let me make an informed rioter of you. After all, if you're gonna be firebombing somebody's summer home, you should know why.

First, the definite facts, what poet D.H. Rumsfeld might call "the known knowns." What happened? Our best answer on this question will take some time to get totally straight, but these are my top three: first, the general deflation of our economy as the post-World War II industrial boom began to lose its momentum and as globalization put us in competition for labor with bigger, poorer countries.

Second and more locally, there's the subprime mortgage crisis. This one's been pretty well discussed, but speaking very generally, Americans, believing their credit and their properties to be more valuable than they actually were, were led by many leading banks into taking out adjustable rate mortgages. These banks, seeking to shield themselves from some of the risk of these loans, pawned them off on third parties, such as hedge funds, in big bundles. But as the housing bubble burst, people started defaulting on these mortgages which in turn destabilized completely unrelated sectors and hey, presto, we're in a recession. Typically, the Treasury Department would just cut interest rates to boost consumer spending, but with the dollar as low



as it is, they risk disastrous runaway inflation.

Third, there are the infamous credit default swaps. These are a bit more infuriating. Invented in that watershed decade of financial shrewdness, the 1990s, credit default swaps (CDS) begin life as a loan from a financial institution to another company. That financial institution then offers a CDS contract on the loan: You pay that institution an annual premium, and if the loan defaults, they promise to pay out. CDS originally worked like an insurance policy. If you went in with this institution on the original loan, then this was a smart move, a good way to hold onto a bond while reducing risk. The hitch is that anyone, not just those originally involved in the loan, can buy these contracts. And since they are completely unregulated, a lot of people did, even though they are immensely volatile (Warren Buffet referred to them as "financial weapons of mass destruction" in 2005)

and highly speculative. Why take the risk? Well, all of this risk taking was rationalized on the notion that the institution providing the loan would still be around to pay out in the event of a defaulting. After all, it would take a pretty big financial apocalypse to take out a major American financial institution (like, say, AIG), right? Incorrect!

So what happens now? A few things. First, the age of the great independent American financial house is over. As you read this, the last of the major Wall Street investment banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, are reformatting themselves from independent entities into federally-regulated bank holding companies. The government, already a majority shareholder of AIG with last week's bailout, will now have unprecedented oversight of the financial sector, in all likelihood prompting new stage of Rooseveltian structured capitalism. So while the future of our economy remains dubious, you can kiss the dream of small

government goodbye. The fact that the Bush administration, avowedly Republican, is pushing for this legislation, is proof enough of that.

Second, Obama wins the election. Barring a major event (and we're talking act-of-global-terror-big here) between now and November, people will be going to the polls with the economy in mind, which means victory for the Democrats. That's as far as I am willing to speculate.

Big questions do loom on the horizon. It's up to Congress just what strings they want to attach to this bailout. The number above is for now just a number. We could go lower or higher depending on how cheaply we end up buying up all this toxic corporate debt. But it looks pretty certain we're buying it, regardless of the price tag. I for one, am getting a receipt.

Charlie is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached by e-mail at cbohlen@wustl.edu.

College Republicans: alive and kicking (ass)

Charis Fischer
Op-Ed Submission

I must offer my deepest apologies to Eve Samborn and the rest of the liberals on campus who are apparently bemoaning the purported "absence" of the College Republicans from the campus political scene. As president of the group, I take full responsibility for putting you through such agony. I must also thank Miss Samborn because I admittedly have not been as prolific when it comes to indignant *Student Life* columns as I normally like to be, but her mistaken obituary from Friday's issue entitled "R.I.P. College Republicans" has provided me with great fodder about which I can express my indignation!

As absolutely thrilling as the Take a Stand Rally must have been, we felt that our time as a group was better spent doing something actually meaningful, rather than standing behind a table while students walk by and snicker at us. And I would really love it if someone would explain to me how the Democrats' activity of making Obama-themed T-shirts qualifies as "substantive." Finally, I would like to know why the fact that we staffed a table during the voter registration drive on Sept. 18 does not constitute a "serious attempt" at voter registration.

Now onto that list of events that Miss Samborn so accurately predicted I would compile. On Monday Sept. 22, we are co-hosting an event with the College Democrats about the importance of voting. Then on Thursday Sept. 25, we are participating in a mock vice presidential debate with the College Democrats, sponsored by the Roosevelt Institution. To satisfy your desire for a major conservative speaker, along with the Washington University Student Investment Fund, Delta Sigma Pi and Theta Xi fraternities we will be bringing Ben Stein to campus on Oct. 1. This event's SU funding is in the final stages of approval and would have been finalized sooner had it not been for the Assembly Series backing out of initial plans to host both a liberal and conservative pundit. On Oct. 7 we are participating in a panel discussion on the foreign policy positions of McCain and Obama with the College Democrats and the International Leadership Program. And you can plan on seeing more of us as we approach the general election. I hope these events have enough substance for those who were concerned about our absence.

As much as liberals on campus would like to believe it, Republicans are not disenchanting with their party. The way Samborn's article makes it sound, you'd think John McCain is losing by 20 points. I guess it's just wishful thinking, because the two candidates are effectively in a dead heat. And the vast majority of Republicans are in fact very excited about

supporting John McCain, because he has a track record of actual accomplishments. He has worked across the aisle on numerous occasions including McCain-Feingold, McCain-Lieberman and as leader of the Gang of 14.

Contrast this with Obama: I have yet to hear any Obama supporter, whether student, pundit or campaign manager, give just one example of the group, I take full responsibility for putting you through such agony. I must also thank Miss Samborn because I admittedly have not been as prolific when it comes to indignant *Student Life* columns as I normally like to be, but her mistaken obituary from Friday's issue entitled "R.I.P. College Republicans" has provided me with great fodder about which I can express my indignation!

In case you didn't notice, the hypocrisy of Miss Samborn's article is mind-blowing. She decries the "cheap jabs" at Obama during the Republican National Convention, yet feels compelled to say that John McCain is too busy counting his houses to worry about the economy. How clever! Someone needs to stop using Keith Olbermann's talking points.

Actually, John McCain called for the reform of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac two years ago. Obama, on the other hand, was the second largest recipient of campaign donations from Fannie and Freddie. I also have to wonder if Miss Samborn, or any other liberal on this campus for that matter, has ever actually looked at McCain's energy plan. Drilling is only one component of his multifaceted plan that includes every other source of energy you could think of: nuclear, natural gas, clean coal—you name it. And a plan that doesn't include drilling is naive in the extreme. We cannot expect to instantly transition from oil to some alternative, and McCain is well-aware of this reality.

I know how much you hoped that the College Republicans had disappeared this election season, so I'm very sorry to disappoint you. Contrary to what Obama supporters might believe, hoping for something does not actually make it so. I thus urge you to keep hoping for a victory in November—we'll be working to disappoint you again.

Charis is a senior in Arts & Sciences and president of the College Republicans. She can be reached by e-mail at cafsche@artsci.wustl.edu.

Candles in the dark

Tom Butcher
Staff Columnist

The notion that human beings live in the present is among the greatest illusions that we have pulled over our own eyes. We hear this mantra constantly, spewing from talking heads on television and self-help "experts" with bloated paychecks. "Live for the moment!" they cry. "The past is the past, but this is now!" As long as we're defining things by ourselves, I suppose that we might as well agree that the future is the future. What revelations!

The present is nothing more than an infinitesimally small point balanced between the two infinities of the past and the future. In technical terms, the present disappears into the past before we are even cognizant of its existence.

How can this be so? Well, light travels pretty fast—almost 300 million meters per second—but it's not instantaneous. If you see something happen 10 meters away, then by the time that information can reach your eyes, slightly more than .0000003 seconds

have passed. It takes a little extra time for that information to travel down the ocular nerve into the brain, and then a varying amount of more time for that information to be processed and for a reaction to form.

And hearing? Much slower—sound barely breaks 340 meters per second, and that's only at sea level.

The present is nothing more than an infinitely small point balanced between the two infinities of the past and the future.

These might seem like extraordinarily small differences, but they do exist. Physically speaking, by the time we sense anything, that thing is no longer part of the present; it has already begun its long process of fading away along the time line.

Philosophically and psychologically, the illusion of the present becomes even more conspicuous. While it is true that we cannot reverse time and see further into the past than the speed of light already dictates, our memories ensure that we can think about the past whenever we like—and sometimes more often than that!—making what once was, in a perceptual sense, almost as real as what "is," whatever that is.

Moreover, we compare everything in the present to what we have already experienced. We human beings are a product of what we once were, and whether we are building on that past or trying to avoid it, it shades our perception of the world around us, affecting our interpretation of everything we experience.

Have you ever observed lights moving in the darkness? As they swing and sway to and fro, they leave little trails behind. At one end is the light itself, shining most brightly. At the other, the trail gradually dissolves away into nothingness, and the light's pattern through that space is seemingly forgotten. But the light keeps on moving forward, constantly renewing the trail behind it.

The human mind is like those lights, moving in the darkness. Though it may shine most brightly at the moments closest to the present, it carries with it a trail, snaking back into the past. This trail of memory and perception is every bit as much a part of the mind as the shining beacon at the other end. The trail of light tells us where it has been, giving us a pathway for understanding the light's current position. The same is true of memory: Without a proper trail, we have no possibility of understanding the mind at the present.

The notion that human consciousness is based only in the present, or at any single point at all, is inherently false. Our minds are extended backwards through time, existing at many points all at once. We live on a continuum of past and present, eagerly gobbling up the future at every fraction of every second we live. We are amazing organisms, compounding our existence with every breath we take. We are brilliant, beautiful candles, moving rapidly through a dark, dark night.

Tom is a junior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached by e-mail at tmbutcher@wustl.edu.

SHERMAN from page 4

jeans was replaced by smart suits. All the applicants were hoping that the professional suit would convey that they were professionals.

An easy objection is that people might judge one another on their appearance, but when they get to know one another, that possibly-erroneous first impression is done away with. It's not so simple thanks to the perseverance effect.

The perseverance effect is why you want to make such a good first

impression. People form an impression and cling to it, even when evidence clearly points to the opposite. So all those applicants' professional impressions stick in the recruiters' head even if the applicants' résumés don't measure up. Similarly, people will still think an overweight person is lazy or has low will power, even if they find out that said person has actually exercised and strictly dieted.

An interesting thing is that the perseverance effect applies to conscious

thinking. So from the example above, the person may no longer consciously think that the overweight person is lazy, but if the person is busy or tired or otherwise not at their full mental capacity, then that person will fall back on their unconscious beliefs. Of course the effect can be overcome over time; it just might take longer than you think.

To wrap it up, while your appearance is only skin deep, it represents who you are. People are completely

right to judge you on how you look, but, of course, that shouldn't be the only factor in their judgement. Nevertheless, it is often the only factor, so when you wake up, take some time. Think about how you're going to present yourself today and what it says about you.

Brent is a sophomore in Engineering. He can be reached by e-mail at zuklug@gmail.com.

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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

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

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

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Anna is a senior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached by e-mail at assobtk@artsci.wustl.edu.

when they aren't ready to become parents and doing our best to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and infections. If abstinence-only programs were proven to be more effective, I would be more open to supporting them. The reality is that these programs leave the students with the same healthy sexual appetite, but also with ignorance toward sexual risks and contraceptive use. Currently, the most reasonable response to teenage sexuality is knowledge and comprehensive programs that inform and educate students about their bodies, the risks of sex and the many, many ways to keep ourselves safer, outside of abstaining completely.

SCENE

Say CHEEEEEESE!



LUCY MOORE | STUDENT LIFE

Spencer Goodman
Scene Reporter

Since the advent of Facebook, life as we know it has been dramatically altered. No longer do people savor every moment with their friends. Foregone are the times when a car accident was seen as a terrible, embarrassing incident. No more are the

times when a private trip to the beach remained just that—private. Now, with the widespread use of Facebook and digital cameras, our habits have changed.

One common characteristic among virtually all living creatures is the desire for excitement and good times. Lion cubs play their own game of tag in Southern Africa. Squirrels enjoy hide-and-seek across Washington Universi-

ty's campus. Humans, specifically teens and college students, take pictures of themselves.

We've lost that zeal for excitement, only for it to be replaced by the zeal to be envied. The attention has shifted from enjoying ourselves to imbuing others with green eyes—to making it appear that we are having a great time rather than actually having a great time.

With the home page newsfeed that constantly bombards you with information about your "Facebook friends," the mini-feed that details your friends' every action on the social networking site and, perhaps most importantly, the photo albums, people have the means to document every action easily and let all of their friends

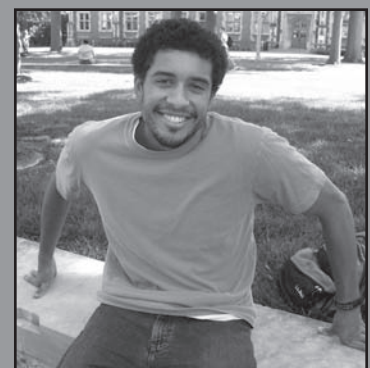
See **CHEESE**, page 7

Word on the Street

What's your favorite Disney Channel Original Movie and why?



"'Luck of the Irish' because it's the only one I can think of right now."
Nevin Watkins, sophomore



"'Brink' because they said 'skate better.' Best advice ever."
Matt King, junior



"'Johnny Tsunami.' I just have really good memories of watching it with friends and eating big bowls of cereal and being up past our bedtime."
Katie Lewis, sophomore

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YOU'VE GOT ISSUES: Education

Barack Obama

Supports charter schools, as long as they work within the public school system.

More funding and a stronger emphasis on teacher retention rather than testing for No Child Left Behind. Wants new universal preschool programs.

Supports merit pay for teachers rather than seniority-based pay.

Proposed adding 25,000 teachers in high-need areas in 2004 and pledged to provide 200 teacher residency programs.

Supports the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which guarantees most families the first \$4,000 of a college education.

Against abstinence-only education. Supports teaching evolution in schools.

To pay for education changes, "plans to delay a NASA project for five years, auction surplus federal property, close tax loopholes for executives and use a small portion of the savings associated with fighting the war in Iraq."

John McCain

Thinks that school vouchers, not increased funding, are the solution for failing schools.

Supports No Child Left Behind but thinks it needs improvement.

Pledged to reform Head Start, an existing preschool program.

Supports merit pay for teachers rather than seniority-based pay.

Proposed \$500 million in "virtual schools," online learning environments.

Voted to allocate \$75 million for abstinence-only education.

Voted to require schools to allow voluntary prayer. Believes that intelligent design should be taught in school, although not necessarily in science class.

None of his plans involve much new funding. Vouchers would be refunds on existing public school taxes, and most other programs merely reform existing ones.

Putting the "use" in "useless space"

Paula Lauris
Scene Reporter

Once upon a time, a young soon-to-be freshman eagerly waited until midnight to find out where she would be living the next year. Park House, WebSTAC told her, in a corner suite which boasted its very own "common space." In the following weeks, she and her suitemates dreamt up all of the things that they could do with their private space. A game room with ping-pong and pool tables? An entertainment lounge full of couches and massage chairs? A personal walk-in closet for clothes and shoes?

On move-in day, the girls were hit with the harsh reality that the term "common space" was an exaggeration of the oddly-shaped seven-by-eight-foot extra room at the end of their hallway. With an area that could barely fit all six of them at the same time, it seemed that all their hopes were lost. The girls, however, settled for covering the floor with cushions and using the spot as a study and nap room.

So why do many dorms happen to have these random, seemingly useless areas in them? One answer is pretty obvious if you've walked around Wash. U. recently: construction. The conversion of traditional dorms to modern ones, along with the transformation of several existing dorms, has drastically altered floor plans. What were once dorm rooms or bathrooms are now additional scraps of land for students to use as they choose. Even if these areas are tiny or awkwardly

shaped, college students still jump at the chance to take advantage of them, because maximizing space is a huge part of the dorm experience. If college students didn't exist, who else would deplete the local Bed, Bath & Beyonds of their storage bins, shoe racks and stackable cartons each fall?

Indeed, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Target are the places that the residents of Beaumont 2 plan to hit up in order to make the most of their "small cubby in the wall," as freshman Alan Liu called it. The nook already has a floor lamp, but Liu says they're hoping to decorate it with curtains and a chair to make it "sort of a common room." (Liu is also a reporter for *Student Life*.)

But, really, what can you do with a space that's no larger than a closet? Freshman Catie Gainer, who convinced the boys in an Eliot suite to let her use their extra closet as a reading room, has found quiet comfort in the space. (Gainer is also a reporter for *Student Life*.)

She uses the spot for reading because "the study rooms are always full, and dorm rooms are usually loud and distracting," Gainer said.

Freshmen Katherine Foster and Kourtney Woodward also use their nook in Park House as a study area. Foster, an art school student, says she goes in the room when working on projects or homework.

With foldable mesh chairs, the room also serves as a great gathering spot, as Foster explained that they "eat breakfast together every morning [in it]."

While creating extra study rooms seems to be the trend for students, others use their space for more enjoyable purposes. The freshmen of Park 480 have decked out their area with beanbag chairs and a television for watching football games.

The nook is also helpful for "using your cell phone or doing anything noisy when you know your roommate is studying or sleeping," freshman Kevin Levine said.

Not to be outdone by the guys, the girls of Park 220 have created a dream-themed area complete with bead curtains, three mesh chairs, a sun tapestry and hanging stars. With a stocked refrigerator, a wall full of posters and a sign leading the way to the spot, the girls' nook is the perfect hangout spot and occasionally, an extra bedroom.

So, if you're one of the lucky few who has a yet-to-be decorated nook, you might be wondering what you can do to with the space. Start with the entrance, because it quite literally gives the first impression guests will have. Even if the area does not have a structured doorway, you can fashion one out of hanging beads or curtains.

Lighting is also an important aspect in decorating, and you have many options to set the right mood. Hanging lanterns or Christmas lights are perfect for ornamental lighting and they conserve space by using the ceiling. Floor lights and lamps, on the other hand, are practical if you plan to study, but they do compete for space with other items you may want to cram in there.

Of course, the most important spot

to decorate is the walls. You can tell a lot about a person if they have a Marilyn Manson or a Hannah Montana poster on their wall. Although posters are the obvious choice for covering bare walls, there are other creative alternatives to use if you missed the poster sales. For example, you can cover the walls in butcher paper and let guests decorate the room for you. Just remember that censoring can be a good thing, especially with Parents Weekend coming up.

Once you've finished with adornments, you must decide what to do with the bulk of the space. For the spend-thrifty, extra room can be just what you need to save some cash. If you hang clotheslines from the walls to create a drying rack, you won't have to waste 75 cents each week on the drying machine; that's almost \$30 saved a year, which can be put to use on fro-yo runs or dates at Ibbey's. For the more sleep-inclined, the extra space serves as the perfect napping area. A hammock can hang in any sized room, freeing up the floor for extra mattresses and cushions. And of course, for the partiers, a nook is the perfect scene for small gatherings or even larger ones if you really want to get close to your friends. Add some disco lights and a stereo, and you'll be prepared for any spontaneous parties that might arise. Plus, you won't have to worry about cleaning up the mess before you go to sleep. So don't get discouraged by the size of your nook; remember that Bed, Bath & Beyond and Target are only too happy to help you out in maximizing the space.



Andrew Christian fashion show

This is the second article in a series examining the stances of the two major presidential candidates. Research collected by Scene Reporter Brennan Keiser. Above information from

<http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm>

http://obama.senate.gov/speech/060628-call_to_renewal

http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Barack_Obama/

http://www.education.com/magazine/article/John_McCain/

CHEESE from page 6

know about it.

This new means of "stalking" has found a solid base at Washington University. Cries of "I look really bad in that picture. Delete it!" or "Don't tag me in that!" pervade the halls and dorm rooms of Wash. U. every day. More and more students are spending a greater amount of time taking pictures of themselves at social events rather than simply enjoying those activities.

"I think it is kind of an obsession. Some people seem to only take pictures and not be as involved in the events," freshman Jennifer Jeffers noticed upon arriving at Wash. U. this fall.

Although one can make the argument that people are simply taking pictures to capture memories, the actions of the photographers beg to differ.

"I don't print my pictures [from Facebook] out often,"

freshman Claire Pluard admitted.

Try printing out those photographs of your friends, family and yourself in order to have tangible evidence of events past. While the Internet does provide an easy means for transferring photographs among friends, seeing a picture on the Internet does not compare to having it on the wall of your dorm room.

Although I by no means advocate the end to Facebook, greater emphasis should be placed on the social networking aspect of the site, in connecting with friends from preschool, catching up with that family member from the reunion or wishing your friend a "Happy Birthday." So next time there's a party on your dorm floor, ditch the camera and enjoy yourself. You just might be surprised by how much fun you have.

Ginika Agbim
Fashion Columnist

It was 11:07 on a Saturday night at Just Johns, a gay bar in the Grove. With the lights dimmed and the techno music starting, the president of Pride St. Louis stepped on the white cross runway—L.A. designer Andrew Christian's logo—to introduce the host of the show, a drag queen with a lot of personality. Soon, clean-shaven male models strutted down the walkway in new Andrew Christian underwear. Obviously, this was not your typical fashion show. In fact, Andrew Christian wasn't even present.

The underwear itself looked really nice. I enjoyed the range of citrusy colors, from a mango shade of orange to a lime shade of green. Even the cuts of the underwear made every male model look his...best. The show itself was not so great. No, I don't consider myself to be an expert on the way fashion shows should be run, since I've only been in them and have not actually coordinated one. However, many elements, such as hesitant, yet intoxicated audience members being encouraged by our lovely drag host to place singles in the underwear of the models left me feeling...well, let's just say this was not supposed to be a strip club. Furthermore, the plastic tablecloth-like runway was ruined within the first showing. Had Andrew Christian actually attended the show, I am more than confident that the affair would have been more professional and not almost circus-like.

The intermission of the show included an audience-volunteer fashion

show where a plethora of clean-shaven, over-excited men were given the chance to show off on stage. Classic. Yes, the ordeal was entertaining, but I went expecting fashion and class.

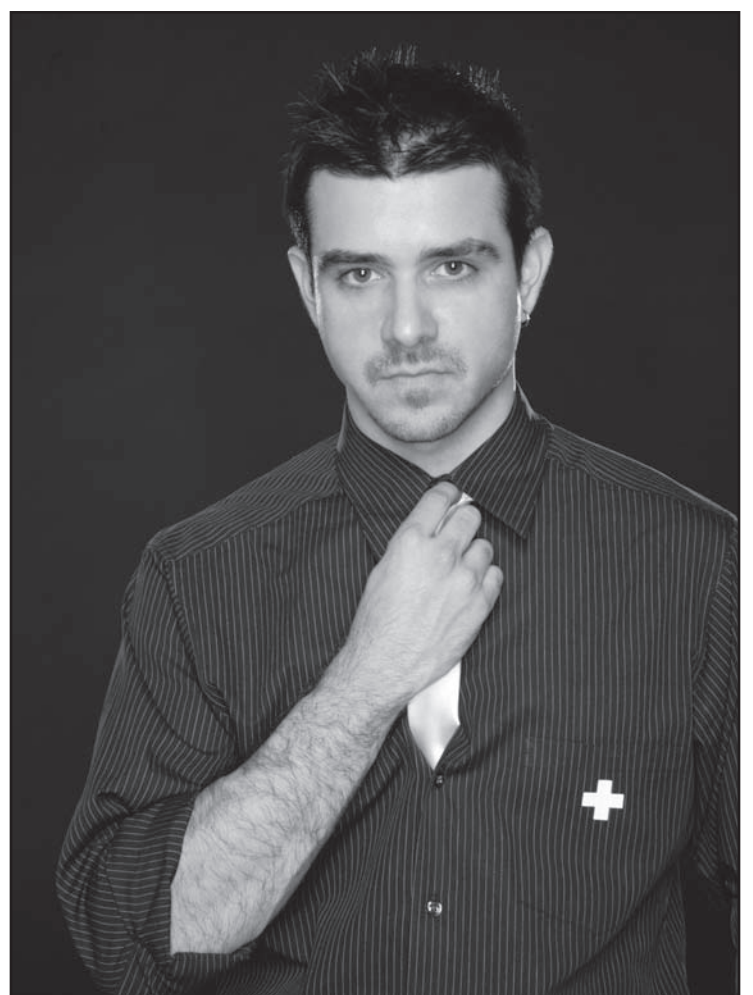
While speaking to the models in the former basement—now dressing room—I learned that many of them had just met for the first time and had not previously seen the runway. Personally, I believe previewing or pre-walking the runway is a must. Many of the models spoke with me about being new to coming out, and I found that many of them were supported by their friends and family.

So, two things I learned from attending the show: One, I actually really do like techno music. I have no clue why I did not really give it any chance, especially since it is the most common form of music used on runways. Two, bright colors make me happy.

Unfortunately, I did not stay until the end of the show; people were smoking, and I have asthma. If you would like to see some of his designs, Andrew Christian and Co. should be appearing on the Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency show on Oct. 8, 2008. With more than a decade of experience in fashion, Andrew Christian has really made his mark, and his clothing will soon be sold in local boutiques in St. Louis.

In this article, I did not intend to bash the designer, models or the directors of the show. They all worked extremely hard to even have a show at all. Before the show everyone was really hospitable and gregarious, so the mood was not tense or awkward.

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Students flock to lucrative majors

Kelly Fahy
Contributing Reporter

Although most students claim that future salaries are a minimal factor in their choice of majors, a Forbes report suggests the most lucrative college majors are in line with the most popular majors at Washington University.

The Forbes "List of the Most Lucrative College Majors," published over the summer, includes a wide variety of disciplines. The major that provides graduates with the highest estimated salary is computer engineering, followed

by economics, electrical engineering and computer science.

Although science- and math-based majors dominate the list, English, history, political science and communications majors were also recognized for earning significant salaries.

Several social science majors also made the list, but a relatively large gap still remained in the average salaries between the two categories.

The computer engineering major, at the top of the list, is credited with a starting salary of \$60,500 and an average salary of \$104,000 with 10 to 20 years of experience. The figures for elec-

trical engineering, computer science and mechanical engineering follow in a similar fashion.

History, ranked at number 12, is listed as having an average starting salary of \$37,600 and an average salary of \$68,000 with 10 to 20 years of experience. For the 15th-ranked English major, the average starting salary is \$36,700 while the average salary with experience is \$62,300.

Many of the University's most popular majors made the list according to data provided by the Office of Student Records. Most students, however, deny the notion that they chose to study a course for its potential financial

benefit.

"For me at least, it's more genuine interest," freshman Will Stock said of his choice to study biomedical engineering (BME). "I've wanted to study BME since approximately ninth grade when I had a personal injury. I feel that from my personal experiences, this is the most rewarding career choice. [I made my choice] entirely because I want to do it, not because of financial gain."

Biomedical engineering is the engineering school's most popular major with 235 students declaring it as their major last spring. It is not listed on Forbes' "List of the Most Lucrative College Majors."

Other students, however, acknowledge the importance of choosing a major that will likely yield a high salary.

"I'm studying finance because I really want to be an actuary," freshman Natalie Rufat said. "My freshman math teacher told me that I'd probably be good at it because I like math. [She] also told me that it was one of the highest paying jobs that you don't have to do so much work for."

The idea of a high salary is en-

tering, Rufat said, because working is not her only goal in life.

"If I can support a family and do something that I like, that's what I want to do," she said.

Finance is ranked sixth on Forbes' list of most lucrative majors with an estimated average starting salary of \$46,900. At the University, 239 students declared a major in finance in the spring of 2008, making it the second most popular business school major, after business administration.

Freshman Ryan McCombe plans to major in civil engineering, the third most popular major in the University's engineering school and the eighth most profitable major according to Forbes.

McCombe sees how students' choosing a major for purely financial reasons could be detrimental.

"It's the people that are really passionate about their jobs, people that love their jobs, that are the people who are going to get out there and do the best," McCombe said. "They're going to become the executives, and those are the people that are going to make the largest salaries."

the most Popular Majors and how much \$\$\$ they make

College of Arts & Sciences

- 1) Biology- 446 students enrolled, \$37,900 starting salary
- 2) Psychology - 422 students enrolled, \$34,700 starting salary
- 2) Economics - 315 students enrolled, \$48,100 starting salary

Business School

- 1) Business Administration- 434 students enrolled, \$40,900 starting salary
- 2) Finance - 239 students enrolled, \$46,900 starting salary
- 2) Marketing - 152 students enrolled, \$39,400 starting salary

Engineering School

- 1) Biomedical Engineering- 235 students enrolled*
- 2) Mechanical Engineering - 165 students enrolled, \$56,900 starting salary
- 2) Civil Engineering- 72 students enrolled, \$52,600 starting salary

Art School

- 1) A.B. Major in Architecture - 191 students enrolled*
- 2) Communication Design- 41 students enrolled*
- 3) Sculpture - 30 students enrolled*

*These majors were not ranked in Forbes' 20 most lucrative majors.

ZOE SCHARF | STUDENT LIFE

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specifically on the police's specific behavior in his report on the incident, he wrote that neither suspects nor police had reported any inappropriate language.

"I have no information to suggest that our officers were inappropriate during the arrest process," he wrote. "In fact, there have been no allegations by any of the arrestees of any inappropriate tactics by our officers."

He added, though, that times arise when officers need to take liberty in their actions in order to keep situations under control.

"While we do not condone inappropriate language by our personnel, in some circumstances officers must be forceful in their commands and communications," he wrote. "Ultimately our officers acted to ensure the safety of the community, the arrestees and the officers themselves."

Strom said, however, that WUPD would investigate the

claims of inappropriate action as an internal personnel matter.

Although she recovered her laptop, Heger's hard drive was wiped clean. She said, however, that she was not concerned about the loss of information and that WUPD has been helpful throughout the process.

She added, though, that neither her residential college director nor her residential advisers notified her that her dormitory could be robbed, despite the fact that a laptop was stolen at the beginning of the month.

"The RCD didn't do much about it and our RAs are out of town," she said. "Since other people's laptops were stolen earlier this year and they haven't caught the people, it would have been good for the University to send out some warning that this is going on."

STUDENT LIFE

One Brookings Drive #1039
#330 Danforth University Center
Saint Louis, MO 63130-4899

News: (314) 935-5995
Advertising: (314) 935-6713
Fax: (314) 935-5938
e-mail: editor@studlife.com
www.studlife.com

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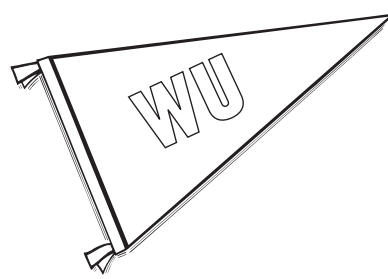
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STUDENT LIFE



A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival

Emily Wasserman
Cadenza Writer

Every fall at Washington University, students uncup their pens, get out fresh notebook paper and set off on the difficult task of writing. Among the seemingly monotonous papers, tests and essays, one often misses opportunities for creative composition. However, on Sept. 26 and the 27th, three playwrights will show the Wash.U. and St. Louis community the fruits of their very imaginative labor.

Washington University's annual A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival gives aspiring playwrights a chance to write, rewrite and then finally stage an original script.

The Festival begins as a contest in which students submit a play to the Performing Arts Department, and then their work, if chosen, is developed.

The contest and festival are named after A.E. Hotchner, a Washington University alumnus (A.B., J.D. '40) and playwright. Beyond his playwriting, Hotchner pens novels and biographies. His close friendships with big names such as Ernest Hemingway and Paul Newman solidify his reputation throughout both the literary and dramatic communities.

THE TIMELINE

The festival consists of an intensive two-week workshop that culminates in a script-in-hand, staged reading. With the support of PAD actors, faculty directors and a guest dramaturg, a new playwright undergoes the difficult yet rewarding process of fine-tuning her script for production.

During the first week, the actors gather for a table reading, or a first informal run-through of the script. Then, under advisement of this year's dramaturg Marge Betley, the playwright commences with his or her rewrites.

Each night, the rewrites are read and discussed by the actors. The second week moves the process to the rehearsal room, and the play is opened up into a larger space so the directors and actors can hone in on staging and movement. The rewrites continue

"My play, *Better*, began as a series of monologues. Two years ago, I attended a wedding with my best friend who had recently broken up with a boyfriend. Needless to say, the wedding completely depressed her. I wrote a monologue as a young woman in a similar situation. From that, my leading lady was born, as were the rest of my character from subsequent monologues. I've been working on this piece ever since," Stamell said.

The title of Stamell's play also takes on a very significant symbolic connotation. The end of a long-term commitment leads her characters to questions dealing with past and present relationships.

"The message of the piece is that no relationship is perfect,

A play is usually created over several months or even years, but the Festival allows the playwrights to gain crucial feedback that will help them develop their script well into the future.

but that doesn't mean you should settle for anything less than you deserve. It's about give and take, and when you can't give any more, it may be time to question whether or not you can do better," Stamell said.

Lombard's play also focuses on confusion and expectations surrounding love, even though her main character is currently engaged in a relationship.

"All at Once is about the way the past, the present and the future intersect and influence our decisions. It's the story of one girl's struggle to reconcile her mother's regrets, her boyfriend's moment-to-moment philosophy and her own confused expectations," Lombard said.

Birkenmeier's play, *Candlestick Park*, deals with love in perhaps the most abstract fashion, as her protagonist cannot even see the object of her affection.

"*Candlestick Park* is about a lonely guy whose life has been closely tracked by a blind woman who lives below him. She listens to him and learns about his behavior and

actors in particular as vital influences in their writing.

"The best part of this process has been hearing my words read out loud by such talented actors. They have helped me discover new sides to my characters I didn't even consider, and it has helped my play improve immensely," Stamell said.

Lombard also finds the actors crucial to the writing process and has formed director Annamarie Pileggi's work with the actors an inspiration.

"I get to sit in my chair at the head of the table and watch the actors bring my play to life. And, of course, I'm furiously writing notes on what I'd still like to change. Listening to the way Anna and the actors interpret what I've written is really the only way to discover if everything I want to express is present on the page," Lombard said.

THE FEEDBACK

"When the play is presented in this festival, it is merely a snapshot of the play enroute to its final form, its journey from page to stage," Lewis said.

The Hotchner's unique atmosphere is also due to its inclusion of audience members. Rather than mere observers, spectators become assets to the playwriting process.

"There is also a post-show discussion after the reading between the audience and the playwright, moderated by the dramaturg. We like to think of our audiences not as observers but as participants—when they leave their homes, they should say, 'I'm going to the theatre, WE are working on a play,'" Lewis said.

Dramaturg Marge Betley says the Hotchner Festival is the most intensive process she has experienced in a college setting. "I am very impressed," she said in a recent interview, "with the quality and level of writing, which I believe is a testament to the program Carter [Lewis] built. The actors are willing to take risks, and their boldness is very impressive. The Festival offers a low-risk way to experiment and test things out. The wonderful thing is, there are no irrevocable decisions that are made, and the dialogue about the plays is fluid and energetic."



Elizabeth Birkenmeier, whose play "Candlestick Park" won the full-length prize.



Marge Betley, guest dramaturg for the festival.



Kari Lombard, author of "All at Once."

many young professionals don't even get. Marge (Betley) is this incredibly accomplished person who is so able to seek the truth and intention in these new plays. She is so friendly and full of questions that I always leave totally invigorated with the process. Carter Lewis and (director) Andrea Urice are people whose work I truly admire, and it's amazing to get to share ideas with them. I feel so supported!" Birkenmeier said.

THE ADVICE

Each playwright has his own advice for fellow up-and-coming playwrights and writers, but each also agreed on one communal tip. Stamell finds that quantity rather than initial quality is the best tool for starting a new script or play.

"To quote the brilliant lyricist, Jason Mraz, 'Just start writing. Before you know it, you'll have barfed onto your paper all kinds of things you'd hoped to do.' Write what you know; write what you don't know. It's all valid. Oh, and talk to yourself. It helps," she said.

Lombard, who is also an English major, agrees with the concept of writing frequently. She also suggests that simply listening to the characters is a key component to playwriting success.

"In Intro to Playwriting, Carter Lewis told us to just let the characters talk to us. He said if they're not speaking, don't force it—but if they are, listen to what they're saying and write it down fast. Then go back and cut half of it out. That's some of the best writing advice I've ever gotten," Lombard said.

THE LOWDOWN

The admission to the plays is free, and all plays will run in the Hotchner Studio Theatre in Mallinckrodt. Stamell's *Better* runs on Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m., Lombard's *All at Once* is on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m., and the Festival closes with Birkenmeier's *Candlestick Park* on Saturday evening, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. The only thing necessary to bring is an open mind.

THE AFTERMATH

Many plays presented in past Hotchner festivals have gone on to become full productions as part of the Performing Arts Department season. Some include: *Six Seconds* in Charlack, *Psalms of a Questionable Nature*, *Highness* and *Killing Women*, which was recently produced at St. Louis's Hot City Theatre and directed by Wash. U. drama professor Bill Whittaker. Several plays have gone onto professional productions in New York, Chicago, L.A. and Pittsburgh. This year, Birkenmeier's *Candlestick Park* will be developed in the Festival and will go onto a full production in spring 2009. Birkenmeier credits the Festival and her support system as major players in her success.

"The Hotchner Festival is an incredible opportunity that offers student playwrights resources that

his problems. She abrasively goes on a quest to change him. She also teaches him about the Beatles," Birkenmeier said. The Beatles not only become a point of connection between Birkenmeier's characters but also point to music as a source of inspiration in her writing.

"Music and sound have always been important to me in my writing. Whether it is just a phrasing pattern or a musical note, the way the play sounds really intrigues me. The playwrights who I most admire tend to make these beautiful sounds from simple language," Birkenmeier said.

THE ACTORS

All the plays have different casts and directors, and every playwright has been more than satisfied with the collective work done throughout the Festival. Lombard and Stamell stressed the

throughout as the play moves toward final presentation.

According to Wash.U.'s Playwright-in-Residence, Carter Lewis, a play is usually created over several months or even years. The Hotchner Playwriting Festival allows the playwrights to gain crucial feedback that will help them develop their script well into the future.

THE PLAYS

Despite three very different perspectives, the plays all contain similar questions about love and romance. Senior Kari Lombard and '08 Alumnus Elizabeth Birkenmeier started as students in Lewis's Introduction to Playwriting class and penned the plays that are now being developed at the Festival. Senior Maggie Stamell, however, experienced a different writing process.

Travis Barker and DJ AM in plane crash

Cici Coquillette
Cadenza Writer

Travis Barker and Adam Goldstein, who is better known as DJ AM, suffered serious second and third degree burns after being in plane crash in West Columbia, S.C. on Friday. The duo had just finished playing in Columbia promoting the release of their new album "Fix Your Face." The plane was due to depart before midnight but instead raced off of the runway into a highway embank-

ment a quarter mile away. Four people were killed in the crash: pilot Sarah Lemmon, co-pilot James Bland, Barker's assistant Chris Baker and Charles Still, a security guard. Both Barker and Goldstein are in critical but stable condition. Barker is being treated for burns on his torso and lower body and Goldstein for burns on his arm and scalp. Though the cause of the crash is currently unknown, authorities are investigating and have stated that no factors have been ruled out.

CADENZA BRIEF

FILM REVIEW

The Express: The Ernie Davis Story

TJ Keeley
Cadenza Writer

Director Gary Fleder (*Kiss the Girls, The Runaway Jury*) takes an intriguing, strongly human story and wrings it through the Hollywood biopic/inspirational sports movie machine producing another formulaic mess. When can we shut down that assembly line?

"The Express: The Ernie Davis Story" is, you guessed it, about Ernie Davis, the first African American to win the Heisman trophy. Raised in Elmira, New York, by a single mother, Davis (Rob Brown) jumps at his first opportunity to play college football at Syracuse for Coach Ben Schwartzwalder (Dennis Quaid). Davis hopes to follow in the footsteps of Jim Brown, who also played for the Syracuse before being drafted by the Cleveland Browns. Except Davis wants to accomplish something Brown didn't: winning the coveted Heisman Trophy.

Though Fleder knows how to shoot this film in interesting ways, playing with lighting to pick up smoke and fog quite beautifully, he forgets this story is about people. Most of the characters have one dimension and don't have enough time to develop. This is, quite literally, the Ernie Davis story, but Ernie Davis never has any emotions except excitement on the field and sadness off of it. Fleder uses several close-ups of Brown, trying to squeeze all the emotion out of his face and into the shot, but it takes more than widening one's eyes to get at any genuine emotions.

This film executes all the clichés in the inspirational sports biopic playbook. Yanking on your heartstrings, the characters deliver long speech after long speech. The music—ugh, the music—is like a guide for the emotionally numb. There are too many shots in slow motion, too many shots from a low angle emphasizing Davis's heroism and too many shots squeezing emotion to a pulp. A voice-over from an unknown narrator opens the film, then disappears, never to be heard again. And, after a well-done opening scene, we're thrown into the dreaded flashback during which we're supposed to get some sense of what makes Davis tick. The childhood scenes are even more manipulative because Davis only exists in them when he is being mistreated or saved. He even has a stutter in them that is never followed up.

The performances are mostly

awkward, thanks in large part to flat and often unintentionally funny dialogue from the script by Charles Leavitt (no stranger to heavy-handedness; see *Blood Diamond*). The cast's brightest spots are the small, mentor role of Ernie's grandpa, played by the veteran Charles S. Dutton, and Dennis Quaid as the Syracuse coach. Quaid's performance is by no means great, but he admirably transforms from a Clint Eastwood wannabe to delivering awful lines with a deadpan wink



directed by
Gary Fleder

and starring

Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown and Charles S. Dutton

at the camera, producing a few laughs.

The film is strongest when it's on the field, as the editing makes the action clear and easy to follow. Fleder relied on this and thought it could substitute for more story. He spends 20 minutes of film on the Cottonbowl, which, though an important event in the fight against athletic racism, seemed excessively long and threw off the film's already battered structure. The film should have been over after this sequence, but it had 30 minutes still to go. Fleder scrambles at the end to cram in character and story as Davis faces unfortunate health and tragedy, but it's too little too late. I wanted to know more about how he lived his life with leukemia, but instead of being part of the plot, this section felt like an epilogue.

At the heart of "The Express" lies a great story that deserves a better film. The film catered too much toward an intended audience. It was re-edited and resubmitted to the MPAA after initially being rated PG-13 for violence and language involving racism. For a film about dealing with racism, I wonder why they softened those elements.

In a voice-over late in the film, Davis talks about a letter he is writing, saying "I'm not sure how to end this." I laughed, as I thought these words could have just as easily have come from Fleder or Leavitt.

ALBUM REVIEW

Seaside Rock

Peter Bjorn and John

Peter Bjorn and John Seaside Rock



for fans of
Yo La Tengo, Beck, Morning Jacket

tracks to download
"School of Kruit" and "At the Seaside"



Rebecca Katz
Cadenza Reporter

You know that infectious whistling song "Young Folks"? That Swedish indie-rock band Peter Bjorn and John is at it again with a mostly instrumental album called "Seaside Rock." A vinyl and download-only album, the tracks form a collection of "morning-after-ridiculous Saturday night" head-bobbing tunes. The sounds on the album are said to remind the three Swedes of music school orchestras from hell, and I would have to say that they have that running theme down pat.

The 10-track disc is meant to tell stories of their childhood, with only three songs featuring words. Not lyrics, but words. Monologues read by people from the hometowns of each member reveal different dialects apparent in their respective place of origin. Though it is disappointing not to have intelligible lyrics to go along with the head-bobbing, these masterpieces of composition more than make up for it.

Instrumentation on "Seaside Rock" is remarkable; with Peter Morén on guitar and harmonica, Bjorn Ytting on bass guitar and keyboards and John Eriksson on percussion, PB&J form the same unbeatable combination as the sandwich: enchanting. Beginning with

"Inland Empire," John's percussion forms an unusual rhythm mixing seemingly the sound of gunshots or tires going over street grates with the noise of soft guitar and menacing piano. The sounds come together gradually with the incorporation of new sounds. The track is not without surprise: about two and a half minutes in, just when you're about to switch the track due to monotony, new percussion begins and electric guitar chimes in.

PB&J are definitely having fun on the album, and while the melodies could easily sound like childishly innocent orchestrations, the thrifty three provide a raw and honest sound that serves as validation rather than degradation of their talent. A group that is able to so successfully toy with instrumentation and rhythm and produce the quality of melody that PB&J generate undoubtedly brings energy to their music.

"Next Stop Bjursele" begins with a bit of talk between the band members, which is always fun on an album: the musicians really do exist! The rest of the song sounds a bit like a child just learning to play music, repeating phrases over and over and stopping periodically to evaluate the process. Though the average Wash. U. student (a.k.a. non-student of Swedish) will not

understand the monologue that ensues, the ending with crumpling of papers followed by the words "rock me, rock me, rock me, rock me" leave the listener feeling excited at the human quality of PB&J's music. They really were present in a recording studio, making music and having a great time.

The track that follows, "School of Kruit," uses this juvenile instrumentation once more to provide the perfect soundtrack to a video game. It's danceable and exciting and revs up the listener after the monologue of the previous track. The second half of the disc is a bit lighter. "Needles and Pills" employs staccato guitar sounds and woodwinds to create this elegant sound that not only pleases the ears but also challenges the brain to stay with the beat and follow PB&J in their detours from it and roll with it. The album winds down with "At the Seaside," which successfully wraps up the elementary school orchestra lesson. Featuring contagious harmonica and guitar, it finishes the album with a true beachside air: its cheerful and upbeat melody remind the doubtful listener of his or her love for PB&J: not only an elementary school favorite, but a unique and invincible taste, unable to be accomplished by any other instrumentation (or "condimentation").

ALBUM REVIEW

Only By Night

Kings of Leon



Christina Wilson
Cadenza Reporter

The Followill brothers' (and cousin) fourth album, "Only by the Night," will be a new favorite for some fans and disappoint others. Those in favor of the third album, "Because of the Times," will enjoy the continued slow pace and dramatic lyrics. Gone are the days of "Aha Shake Heartbreak's," raw fierceness, but the southern, garage rock edge is still there. It's just evolved into a more polished and commercial sound.

Kings of Leon start strong. The first four songs are inspired and unique, but the rest lose momentum. "Closer," the opening track, draws in the listener with a soft, whispering intro and is a great juxtaposition to the coarse vocals of lead singer Caleb. "Crawl" is an instant stand-out with its fuzzy guitar and provocative lyrics, like "You had better learn to crawl/Before I walk away." Radio friendly "Sex on Fire" is simply constructed with repetitive lyrics and straightforward riffs but a fun listen nonetheless. Caleb wails expertly in

the ballad "Use Somebody." It has a great build to the chorus and nicely placed backup vocals.

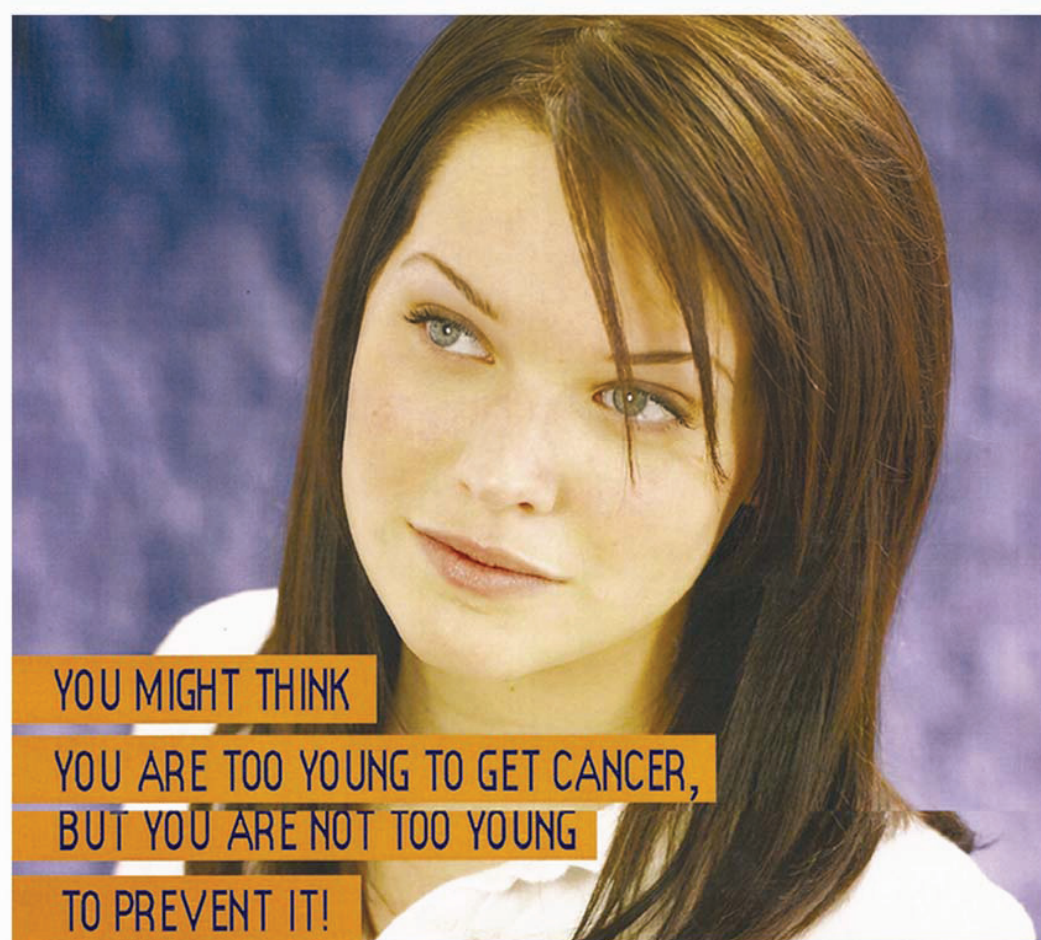
Unfortunately, the rest of the album does not have the same level of freshness. Some could almost be considered fillers, one being the song "Notion." But there are redeeming qualities. The songs continue the spooky atmosphere, loose rhythms and unexpected guitar riffs. The song "17" showcases Nathan on the drums and "I Want You" has an appealing staccato beat. The plaintive ballad "Cold Desert" ends the album. Its penetrating lyrics demonstrate the Followill's improvement in songwriting. The third verse is especially nicely written with lines, "I've never ever cried when I was feeling down/I've always been scared of the sound."

This chill-out album, about finding and yearning for love, is a different direction for the Kings of Leon. It is not as varied or energized as their past work, which is not bad, just different. But the Kings could have done a better job with this new chosen direction. What started as promising ended stale and ordinary.



for fans of
The Strokes, Cold War Kids, My Morning Jacket

tracks to download
'Crawl,' 'Sex on Fire,' 'Use Somebody'



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SPORTS

MEN'S SOCCER

Win streak now at five



Sophomore Nick Wilbar handles the ball against Principia College on Sept. 9.

Scott Drattell
Sports Reporter

The Washington University men's soccer team continued its winning ways with road victories over Fontbonne University and Illinois Wesleyan University this weekend. The Red and Green defeated Fontbonne 3-0 on Thursday night at Clayton High School and then took care of Illinois Wesleyan 3-0 on Sunday in Bloomington, Ill.

The victories improved the Bears' record to 6-2 on the season and increased the team's winning streak to five games. The wins also marked the team's fourth and fifth straight shutouts.

Wash. U. excelled with a commitment to defense, outshooting its opponents 19-7 and 13-7 respectively. The offense also had a high conversion rate, netting six goals out of 15 shots on goal.

"[The back line] has been a lot more focused, and I think we're really starting to take pride in defending hard," junior Nat Zenner said. "And I think we have a very potent attack up top."

The Bears jumped out to an early lead against Fontbonne when junior John Hengel headed home a corner kick from Zenner in the 16th minute. Sophomore Harry

Beddo added two goals, increasing his season total to four, to give the Bears a 3-0 victory.

Fontbonne nearly snapped Wash. U.'s shutout streak with 6:40 remaining in the first half when a Bears' foul set up a free kick for the Griffins. As the defense was setting up its wall, Fontbonne forward Kevin Vonarx took a quick shot that caught the defense off guard. But Wash. U. junior goalkeeper John Smelcer made a spectacular stop, diving to his left to keep the ball out of the net and preserve the shutout.

"Smelcer makes a lot of amazing saves, but that was one of the best I've seen out of him," Zenner said. "It's good to have him in a groove now, making a lot of saves and getting shutouts."

On Sunday, the Bears cruised to victory against Illinois Wesleyan, netting all three of their goals in the first half.

For the second straight game, Hengel put Wash. U. on the board first. The goal was his team-leading fifth of the season and marked the fourth time he has scored the Red and Green's game-winning goal during their winning streak.

"Everything is going in the net right now for him," Head Coach Joe Clarke said.

"[Hengel's] play has been incredible as of late. It's not just

scoring goals either. His overall play has been a huge part of our success," co-captain Marshall Plow added.

Senior Pierre Hoppenot added two goals, his first two of the season, to ensure a Wash. U. victory. The first came just 3:11 after Hengel's, and the second came with 2:31 remaining before halftime.

"He's been unlucky early in the season," Clarke said. "Hopefully, this is going to get him a little more luck and get more balls going into the net for him."

Despite their recent hot stretch, the Bears remain cautious about where they stand as a team.

"The most important thing is that our team is improving as a group," Clarke said. "We're focusing on the process, and we're looking to improve defensively a bit. We're hoping to be very difficult to play against and put a lot of pressure on teams as they come into our half of the field."

"Every win we're getting, we're building our confidence, but it's still a work in progress, and hopefully, we can get better every game," Zenner added.

Wash. U. returns to action Friday with another road game at 4 p.m. against Division II foe Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo.

TENNIS

Men and women's tennis cruise to finals

Dani Wald
Sports Reporter

The Washington University men's and women's tennis teams hosted the Washington University Fall Invitational at the Tao Tennis Center on campus and Dwight Davis Tennis Center in Forest Park this past weekend.

The men dominated the tournament, winning four of six flights, while the women captured one flight while playing in five finals. St. Louis University, Graceland University, McKendree University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis rounded out the field of play, with SLU only played on the women's side.

Tennis, not usually a fall sport, competes in several major invitational events before the major spring season. Many players use the fall season to become acclimated to varsity collegiate tennis.

"This allows the new girls to learn how we run things and get a chance to bond. Most importantly, it builds excitement for the spring," senior and men's co-captain Chris Hoeland said.

"[It] is also useful because we get to play tournaments and see where we are compared to everyone else [including teammates] and we figure out things that we need to work on in the off-season," senior and men's co-captain Chris Hoeland added.

While the women reached five of nine finals, the SLU Billikens, a Division I team and member of the Atlantic 10 Conference, proved too strong for the Bears, who finished the 2007-2008 season ranked 16 in Division III. Freshman Natalie Tingir and senior captain Ania Tcherogueiko defeated teammates Elise Dorsett and Luisa Errichetti in the C Doubles final 8-5 for the team's lone flight victory.

"Playing with a senior is really helpful because I don't have much experience with doubles, and she helped me out," Tingir said.

Sophomore Jaclyn Bild, senior Erin Swaller, sophomore Kalee Cassady and freshman Luisa Errichetti all reached the finals of the A, B, C and F singles flights but all fell to SLU opponents.

"It's encouraging to know that even if they are not feeling 100 percent, we've performed this well," Stahlhuth said regarding the team playing through multiple illnesses.

The Lady Bears will conclude their fall matches next weekend at the Wilson Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Regional Championships in Oberlin, Ohio.

The men's team, fresh off winning the NCAA Division III National Championship, dominated their portion of the tournament. The team reached the finals in all six flights, winning four of them.

Junior John Watts, top seed and the third-ranked player in Division III, suffered a tough loss to Andi Dimke from the UMSL (Division II) 7-6 (5), 5-7, 10-4.

Senior co-captains Charlie Cutler and Hoeland won the Flight A Doubles title 9-8 (3) in a tight match with Thomas Brodbeck and Remy Caffardo from Graceland University, the top-seeded team in

the draw. Cutler and Hoeland are seeded fourth in Division III doubles and avenged their loss to Brodbeck/Caffardo in last year's Wash. U. Fall Invitational.

The Red and Green went on to sweep men's doubles, with freshman Dushyanth Srinivasan and junior Corey Yealy defeating teammates senior Nirmal Choradia and freshman Chris Gordon 8-1. Srinivasan lost in the C Singles final to Graceland's Mathew Waite.

To round out singles play, sophomore Isaac Stein and junior Slavi Fildish won the B and D flights, respectively, with Stein defeating Brodbeck 6-3, 7-5 and Fildish beating teammate sophomore David Zhu 7-6 (1), 6-1.

"It will be fun to see how things work out, but everyone on the team is expecting big things again, so we just need to keep working hard in preparation for the spring," Hoeland said.

The men will also conclude their fall season with the Wilson ITA Central Regional Championships Oct. 3-6, which the team will host.

With additional reporting by Joshua Goldman

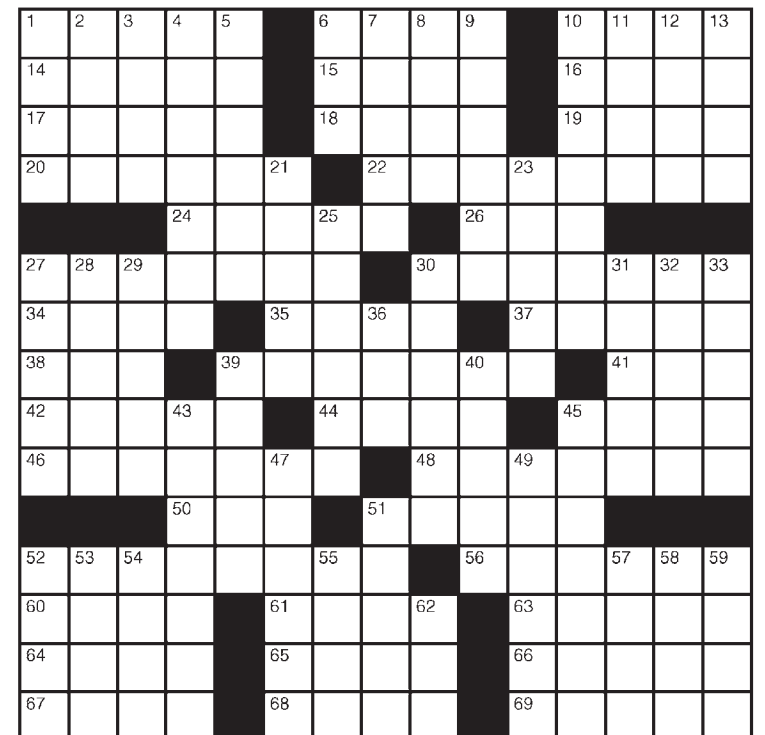


Sophomore Jaclyn Bild follows through on a backhand Sunday in the A Singles final against Hailee Elmore (SLU).

LILY SCHORR | STUDENT LIFE

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Harrow parts
 - Soap film
 - Wearing wedgies
 - Hunter of stars
 - Pond growth
 - Engage in
 - Artillery burst
 - D.C. old-timers
 - Allure alternative
 - Goes in
 - Spoke for transcription
 - Marsh grasses
 - Cereal grain
 - Type of nuclear reactor
 - Final straightaway
 - X-ray shielding
 - Nose or swan follower
 - Musical syllables
 - Mtn. stat
 - Writers' credits
 - Straw drawn
 - Fry briefly
 - Cordelia's father
 - Putting face
 - Mavens
 - Renters
 - Auction finish?
 - Surveillance, shortly
 - Road parallel to a highway
 - Pleasantly warm
 - Autobahn auto
 - Lemming cousin
 - False alarm
 - Nastase of tennis
 - Actress Gray
 - Actress Barkin
 - Lustful look
 - Allows to
 - Is on a quest



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9/24/08

- DOWN**
- Apothecary measure
 - Teheran's place
 - River sediment
 - Type of bridge or wagon
 - Serenaded the sheets
 - Dig a trench
 - Clumsy oafs
 - Wrinkled fruit
 - Good luck source
 - Pullover or cardigan
 - Sentry's command
 - Leer lasciviously
 - Instrument of title
 - Rundown
 - Topless little pies
 - Practice exercises
 - World-weary
 - Take time off
 - Devour
 - Upper house
 - Claw
 - Influence
 - Despises
 - Contend
 - Tete topper
 - Put up

Solutions

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

- More minute
- Handcuff
- See the world
- Hangman's knots
- Kindled again
- Flunk
- Govern
- Garfield's bud
- AI or Tipper
- Mall happening
- Difficult journey
- Cravings
- Annapolis grad

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level:

- 1 2
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

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