

Dave Shapiro tracks his own personal journey with Barack Obama, from 2004 to 2009, from senator to president.

A compilation of inauguration Facebook messages and video coverage of the MLK Symposium, both online, at: WWW.STUDLIFE.COM

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STUDENT LIFE

the independent newspaper of Washington University in St. Louis since eighteen seventy-eight

Celebrating Obama, chain saw in hand

Sophie Adelman
Assignments Editor

Sometimes it's difficult to know if a Washington University sushi chef wields a chain saw in his free time.

Luckily for students, sushi chef Naomi Hamamoto's ice sculpting skill is now no secret—after he sculpted a life-sized bust of President Obama to commemorate Obama's inauguration yesterday.

Hamamoto, who goes by the nickname "Hama," was trained

at an ice sculpting school more than 30 years ago in his native Japan. A five-time World Ice Carving Champion, as well as a two-time Two Man Team World Ice Carving Champion, Hama has appeared at competitive events all over the world. These include the World Ice Art Championships in Fairbanks, Alaska and the famed winter festival in Sapporo, located on the island of Hokkaido in Hama's native Japan. Though he used to compete every year, he has now become

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Naomi Hamamoto, ice sculptor and sushi chef, carves a likeness of President Barack Obama outside the Danforth Center on Tuesday.

Crowds pack DUC for Number 44

Ben Sales
Senior News Editor

The air was electric in the Danforth University Center Tuesday morning as hundreds of students filled the Tisch Commons to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

People began to gather as early as 9 a.m., bringing breakfast and homework to safeguard seats as inaugural proceedings unfolded.

By 10:45—15 minutes before Obama took his oath of office—students crowded every available seating location, with armchairs holding as many as four people, and viewers hanging over the second-floor railings. All eyes were directed at the projection in the front of the room, reminiscent of two months ago when a similar crowd watched Obama's election.

"I'm really happy I'm here right now," freshman Elana Abraham said. "I'm glad that I'm watching it with a bunch of people. It's really cool how involved Wash. U. is with politics."

Many students were dismissed from class early to watch the proceedings, while others decided to ditch their lectures and seminars.

Sophomore Bennet Goeckner, who noted an increase in political activity this year with the election, said he hopes enthusiasm will endure after the thrill of the historic



Students pack the Danforth University Center's Tisch Commons on Tuesday to watch President Obama's inauguration.

inauguration yesterday.

"It's nice to have a community," he said. "It's almost unreal what's going on. After this, it will kind of fade away, but there'll still be some [activity]."

Whatever the level of activism on campus will be in the coming months, students showed their political energy here, responding

to happenings on the screen with cheers, boos and some chuckles, including an eruption of laughter when Obama stumbled on his oath.

The overall mood, however, was positive.

"It's been a great turnout," junior Mark Dudley, president of the Political Science Students' Associ-

ation, which organized the watching party, said. "It's a good example of what being a student here is about. Wash. U. definitely encompasses a wide range of viewpoints, agendas and backgrounds, and having everybody come here and unite under the same purpose and

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ICE, ICE, BABY



Children enjoy the fourth annual Loop Ice Festival on the Delmar Loop on Saturday, Jan. 17. In addition to a carving competition, frozen attractions were set up around the Loop, including a miniature golf course.

Frats hold recruitment service day

Lauren Olens
Staff Reporter

Washington University's Interfraternity Council and the Greek Life Office held a Recruitment Service Day this past Saturday at Langston Middle School in University City.

More than 200 students, and at least eight from each fraternity, attended. In addition to the students already in chapters, 60 students currently considering joining Greek life participated. The men undertook different projects

to improve the school, such as painting walls in classrooms, the cafeteria and the gym, packing boxes and fixing desks.

This is the only event during recruitment in which all the fraternities collaborate.

"The purpose of the event was to bring the Greek community together in a positive way and add service to the recruitment process—something that has been lacking in the past," senior Dan Cate, president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), said. "Fraternities take philanthropy and service extremely seriously. Almost everyone has their own

signature philanthropy event, and it only makes sense that we would all come together during recruitment to help a school in need of work."

According to Ryan Henne, director of Greek life, community service is a vital part of Greek life that adds to the more visible aspects of fraternities and sororities on campus.

"I think that the potential new members got to see a real side of Greek life and that they liked what they saw. Fraternity life is more than just a social outlet. Joining a fraternity connects you to something bigger than yourself. Serv-

ing our community is one aspect of that mission," Henne said.

Cate added that the fraternities will be involved with community service programs throughout the year.

"I believe that Greek life and community service have always been linked together and will continue to be in the future," Cate said.

The Service Recruitment Day was a successful program, from both the point of view of the fraternities and of Langston Middle School.

See **SERVICE**, page 3

Expanded food, meeting spaces considered for 40

Alan Liu
Staff Reporter

At the Student Union Senate meeting last Wednesday, the architects of the construction project on the South 40 explained details about what the finished project will look like and what students should expect.

According to representatives from Mackey Mitchell, the architecture firm heading the projects on the 40, concrete surewalls and steel frames have already been put up for the new Wohl Center and Umrath Residential Hall. This phase of the project will be completed during the next academic year.

Meanwhile, most facilities currently in the Wohl Center will play the construction version of musical chairs. The mailroom and the fitness center will have temporary locations in Umrath, while a temporary dining spot, similar to Center Court, will be in the new Wohl Center. Bear Mart will also be located there.

Along with the temporary eateries, the Wohl Center will feature a bakery similar to Panera and a grill with more traditional items like burgers and chicken tenders. Future plans include a market that

will feature local and natural items, much like Whole Foods.

Although dining options will be limited next year, the University is looking into the possibility of using Urso's and the Danforth University Center (DUC) to extend their operating hours and meet demand.

Students have expressed the need to have 24-hour service available; the University said that they recognize this and are considering it.

"I think the 24-hour service is a great idea. Right now, we only have Bear's Den at certain hours of the day, and if we're on main campus, there's very limited service," freshman Jackie Patmore said.

The architectural style of the new Wohl and Umrath buildings will be in the same vein as Lien and Gregg residential halls, with student activity spaces, such as student businesses or University-run organizations like Cornerstone, on the ground floor, and student dormitories above.

In addition to that plan, new ideas for student activity spaces include an auditorium and a fun room similar to the one in the DUC. The walkway from the main campus to the South 40 will reach into the "heart" of the residential area—the Swamp—in order to fur-

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Construction continues on the South 40 as concrete walls are put up on the new Wohl Center and the new Umrath Hall.



THE FLIPSIDE

eventcalendar

WEDNESDAY 21

Physics seminar
Crow Hall, Rm. 204, 4 p.m.
"The Importance of Interface Electronic Structure for Fe-Semiconductor Based Spintronic Devices," featuring Dr. Athanasios N. Chantis from the Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Spring Activities Fair
Mallinckrodt Center, lower level, 4:30 p.m.
Hundreds of student organizations will be represented and interested in recruiting new members. Come see what groups you'd like to get involved in this semester!

THURSDAY 22

Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute seminar
Seigle Hall, Rm. 109, 3:30 p.m.
"The Visible and Invisible World of International Claims Tribunals." The Harris World Law Institute will present a lecture by Lucy Reed, a partner in the New York office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, where she heads their international arbitration group in the United States and specializes in investment treaty arbitration.

Earth and Planetary Sciences colloquium
Earth & Planetary Sciences Bldg., Rm. 203, 8 p.m.
Stephen Zaitman Memorial Colloquium on "Shearing Melt of the Earth: An Experimentalist's Perspective on the Influence of Deformation on Melt Extraction from the Mantle" presented by David Kohlstedt, professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Minnesota.

Poet Carolyn Forché to speak
Duncker Hall, Rm. 201, 8 p.m.
Poet Carolyn Forché, the visiting Fannie Hurst professor of creative literature in Washington University's Writing Program in Arts & Sciences, will speak about her prize-winning works. The event is free to the public.

newsbriefs

Campus

Professor edits African-American writing anthologies

With President Obama inaugurated yesterday, Washington University will release the anthologies "Best African-American Essays" and "Best African-American Fiction," edited by Professor of English and African-American Studies Gerald Early.

Although the publications of the anthologies coincide with an important point in black history, Early began working on the books one year ago, without the 2008 presidential election in mind.

While most of the articles deal with issues in the African-American community, some come from the pens of African-Americans but have little to do with black culture. By the same token, not all writers in the anthologies are black.

Authors featured in the anthologies include James McBride, Jamaica Kincaid and Thomas Sowell.

The anthologies will expand the boundaries of its previous editions by including passages from longer fiction, pieces from the Internet and works by young adult authors. In the past, "Best African-American Fiction" anthologized mostly short stories.

Early has previously edited "Ain't But a Place: An Anthology of African American Writing About St. Louis." With such a collection of writings, he has expressed a hope to open the eyes of the black community to quality literature from its culture. (Ben Sales)

International

Cease-fire reached in Israel

Israel's offensive against Hamas in Gaza ended on Sunday with both sides having unilaterally declared a cease-fire.

Gaza's death toll lies at more than 1,300, many of them civilians, according to Palestinian health officials. Thirteen Israelis were killed in the attacks.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Gaza on Tuesday to inspect the damage and to pledge aid to the Palestinians.

Israel slowed its withdrawal of forces from Gaza on Tuesday as Hamas continued attacks. Eight mortars were shot at Israeli forces, while the Israeli air force responded by attacking rocket launchers.

Following the war, Kuwait officials demanded investigations into potential war crimes and expressed interest in the reconstruction of Gaza. Hamas said it will continue to fight until all Israeli forces have exited the territory. (Eliza Adelson)

Men rescued after 25 days adrift in icebox

Australian officials have rescued two men floating in an industrial icebox off the northern coast of the country.

The two unidentified Burmese men were picked up last Saturday during a routine patrol flight over the Torres Strait. A helicopter was sent to rescue the men, who had had drifted 90 miles from the Australian mainland. The men survived by drinking rainwater and eating raw fish regurgitated by sea birds. The men were given first aid and then flown to a hospital.

The men said they had been working on a wooden fishing boat with a crew of 20 that sank on Dec. 23, 2008. Officials do not believe any other crew members survived. A spokeswoman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said that no distress signal was received but that small, unlicensed fishing boats often stray into Australian waters. If the men's story is true, it means they would have survived Cyclone Charlotte, a category one storm that hit the area one week prior to the rescue. (John Scott)

weatherforecast

Wednesday 21

Sunny
High 43
Low 27



Thursday 22

Partly Cloudy
High 55
Low 31



policebeat

LARCENY—Jan. 16, 2009, 10:35 a.m.
Location: EADS HALL
Summary: Complainant reports an iMac computer was missing when she came in today. TOC 1/15 2200-1/16 0845 hours. Value \$1900.
Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—Jan. 16, 2009, 1:14 p.m.
Location: SIMON HALL
Summary: Reporting party stated that her school ID was used without her consent when she inadvertently left it in the restroom on Jan. 14 at approximately 7:50 p.m. hours.
Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—Jan. 16, 2009, 6:37 p.m.
Location: SIMON HALL
Summary: False fire alarm. Pull station activated.
Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—Jan. 17, 2009, 9:01 p.m.
Location: Village House
Summary: Complainant reported missing books from a rented locker in Olin after she lost the key.
Disposition: Under investigation.

LARCENY—Jan. 18, 2009, 1:46 p.m.
Location: OFF-CAMPUS
Summary: Complainant reported her ID was stolen while at a party off campus and used without her consent.
Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—Jan. 19, 2009, 1:04 a.m.
Location: UNKNOWN
Summary: Complainant reported ID was lost between the Row and the South 40, and person(s) unknown used the card without consent to make purchases.
Disposition: Pending.

quoteoftheday

"It's almost unreal what's going on."

Sophomore Bennet Goeckner, on the inauguration watch party in the Danforth University Center



HARRY E. WALKER | MCT

President Obama waves to onlookers while delivering his inaugural address on Tuesday at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Obama was sworn in as the 44th U.S. president and the nation's first black president on Tuesday.

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same mission is a great example of what we stand for."

After surging when Obama put his hand on the Bible, the cheers died down as he took the podium, though scatters of applause followed most of Obama's pauses during the speech. The loudest praise from the University Center came as Obama reasserted the United States' will to lead the world.

Gregory Hutchings, an associate dean of the Olin School of Business, said that the students' reaction evidenced a difference between them and older generations.

"This event really reflects a

generational change that's taking place in politics right now," he said. "Seeing how engaged the students are in this past election and this event today—I think it will continue. I think people are very enthusiastic about our new president."

Dudley, whose group held an event Tuesday night with two professors who analyzed the inauguration, agrees that politics should extend beyond isolated celebrations like this one.

"Hopefully [interest] is not going to die after today," he said. "Politics shouldn't be a fair-weather sport; it should be a year-round

event."

Leslie Heusted, the assistant director of special events and programming for the Danforth University Center, plans to organize more gatherings, and said that the turnout on Tuesday indicated the students' political awareness.

"We all have a shared responsibility to move forward," she said.

Some students are confident that political activity will continue.

"It feels like there's going to be a change," Goeckner said, speaking above the music of Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma. "It feels hopeful."

Group hopes to stir debate, cream and sugar optional

Michelle Merlin
Staff Reporter

A growing student group on campus has a vision: to confront controversy and serve coffee.

Its name? Controversy N' Coffee.

This group, which meets weekly, holds panels once a month on political topics with professors, administrators and community members who specialize in the subject of the month.

The goal of the group is to help educate students and create a forum for them and their professors to discuss issues.

"We thought that there wasn't enough opportunity to hear professors speak outside of the classroom. We wanted to have an opportunity for students to get to hear them speak outside of the classroom setting where they're bound by this curriculum," said sophomore Eliana Wilk, the external vice president of Controversy N' Coffee (CnC).

This mentality encouraged the club's leaders to create CnC, which began last year but has become a weekly club this semester.

"There was a group of people that saw this campus as having really great professors, really great faculty, that do a lot of good research and are very passionate," sophomore Thomas Hernandez, the president of CnC, said. "But

rarely do students get to interact with those people on a regular basis outside of the regular classroom setting. We wanted to create something that people could identify as bringing together diverse faculty, so they can talk about what they're passionate about."

The setup of the forums encourages such an interaction. Typically, there is a 20-minute discussion amongst the panelists that outlines and introduces the topic, then a 40-minute back-and-forth between panelists and attendants in response.

Panelists are then requested to stay another half hour to talk, mingle and drink coffee with students and other attendees in what the group hopes will be a low-key atmosphere.

Members of CnC pick the topics they will discuss each month, and then the rest of the group votes to decide which topic will be the next discussed.

"We do have sort of a political focus because we discuss issues that are politically relevant," Wilk said.

Upcoming topics include alcohol on campus, gay marriage, fair trade and arts in education. The next forum, about alcohol on campus, will be held on Jan. 27.

The group is looking to co-sponsor events in the future with other student groups. Last year's forum on education, for example, was planned with Each One Teach

One and had a turnout of about 100 people and a member of the St. Louis Board of Education on the panel.

"For every [forum in the future,] we're going to try to work together not only to increase our visibility, but to avoid doing the same thing," Hernandez said.

Despite the political charge of the group, the members of CnC hope not to push an agenda but to expose people to ideas.

"We want that dialogue, and we want it to be on our terms to be the neutral third party, not for us to dictate what people believe," Hernandez said.

Club members submit all of the questions to the panel and a moderator coordinates the ensuing debates. Students can get closer to the panelists after the formal discussion. Last year one student was so inspired by a professor that he ended up getting an internship with the professor.

The executive board has been pleased with the group's progress but wants to increase involvement.

"The more events that we do, the more people are going to know who we are and that what gets the group going having more recognition and having more people attend our events," Wilk said. "I'm very happy with the events themselves. We've had successful panels. The goal is to get the word out there and keep doing what we're doing."

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SERVICE from page 1



COURTESY OF ALEX WESTROM

Prospective fraternity members paint the wall during Interfraternity Council's Recruitment Service Day on Saturday, Jan. 17 at Langston Middle School in University City.

"The school was incredibly thankful for all of our help. They couldn't thank us enough," Henne said. "I think in the end, through a lot of hard work by the Interfraternity Council and each chapter, we were able to give back to the community and add something special to the entire recruitment process."

In addition to this event, the Greek Life Office works with other campus groups on community service events throughout the year for the whole student body. Greek life is a part of Service First, Dance Marathon and Relay for Life, among other events.

Senior Andrew Kline, former president of Theta Xi, said he hopes that this event will occur again in the future.

"We're hopefully going to try

and do it every year," Kline said. Junior Jeff Lesser, president of Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT), agreed with Kline and hopes to see Greek life join together for more events like this because of the effect they have on the area surrounding the University.

As part of that desire to increase community service activity, the ZBT chapter at the University is partnering with United Way this year to tutor at schools and to help in old-age homes.

"Ideally, these service days should happen not only once a year but once every semester or a couple times every semester," Lesser said. "It was really a terrific day, a great idea and an excellent way to make a positive difference in the St. Louis community."

STUDENT LIFE

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INFO SESSIONS

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps: 1/21, 10 PM, Career Call

Teach for America: 1/22, 7-9 PM, Women's Building Formal Lounge

Peace Corps: 1/26, 6-7 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 234

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): 1/27, 7:30-8:30 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 234

ECONOMY WORKSHOPS

Leveraging the WU Advantage in a Bad Economy:
1/23 from 12-1 PM, 1/26 from 1-2 PM, 1/27 from 12-1 PM, 1/28 from 11 AM - 12 PM, 110 Danforth University Center (exact room may vary - please see our front desk)

Garner tips and advice on how to leverage your education and experience during a recession. Presented by Mark Smith, Director of the Career Center, this workshop will help prepare you for the summer.

The workshop will be offered four time starting Friday (1/23) and is open to all students. Details and location will be posted on CAREERlink. R.S.V.P. is encouraged but not required.

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CAREER FAIR

Internship & Job Career Fair: 1/30 from 10 AM - 2 PM in the Athletic Complex
Over 80 organizations are now registered for our spring career fair. To see a list of organizations and to research position openings, visit CAREERlink. Sign up today!

UPDATE from page 1

ther develop a social and comfortable atmosphere.

"The goal we were given by the administration for this project is really to create that wonderful, animated outdoor street—like a European street—a lively, vibrant street," an architect for the project said.

But the atmosphere is not the

only thing concerning students who are aware of the logistical concerns that accompany construction projects.

"I hope that the University also tries to focus more spatially. I think they underestimated the need for space in the DUC so I hope there will be adequate space in these new facilities," Patmore

said. For students interested in learning more about the construction and development of the South 40, there will be a presentation hosted by the Senate with Mackey Mitchell architects and Dining Services administrators on Thursday, Jan. 22, in the DUC next to the fireplace.

SCULPT from page 1

more selective with his participation.

"I am getting too old for it all," he said.

The process of hand ice sculpting is extremely difficult, as the artist is working not only with a rapidly deteriorating material but also with unwieldy instruments.

Hama started the Obama sculpture with a large chunk of clear, pure ice, then sketched a design with a chisel. Using a small chainsaw, he sawed off wide chunks of ice to create an abstract outline. Hama then moved to an electric chisel, which he used to add detail. Finally, hand tools, similar to wood-carving tools,

were used to create the finest elements of detail, including Obama's facial features.

"I like to sculpt humans and animals" Hama said. "At the beginning, it can be difficult, but after 30 years, anything is easy."

As Hama worked, students could were watching the form of the new president emerge from under a spray of ice. The sculpture took around half an hour to complete.

"I had no idea that we have someone so talented on staff," sophomore Sabria Cornish said. "I love that political activism can be seen in all areas of campus."

Although he was "interested

to watch" Obama being sworn in, Hama is not a citizen and could not vote.

Hama has been working in the Danforth University Center since it opened and is also well known as a sushi chef at his restaurant, Sansui, in Clayton. In addition to his ice sculpting awards, Hama was also named Saint Louis Chef of the Year in 1991.

Khalilan Spaulding, a Dining Services employee who works with Hamamoto, said he was shocked to discover Hamamoto was so skilled.

"I only found out last week," Spaulding said, "It's so amazing—everyone has a hidden talent!"

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Need-blind admissions should be a priority

Even in the midst of economic uncertainty, it is important to analyze the deeper values and principles of education rather than to make decisions on the basis of finance. When it comes to admissions, Washington University has always faced a dilemma: Should it consider the applicants' ability to pay for their educations, which would allow the University to commit to meeting the financial needs of all admitted students, or look at applications blind to the applicants' needs, without considering their ability to pay, possibly making it impossible to fully meet each applicant's need? This is a false

dichotomy. At its root, the University's mission is to educate students so that they can responsibly participate in bettering the world. This commitment to education extends to all people on the basis of merit and regardless of background, and funding this commitment should be the University's first priority.

It may be true that the University only considers an applicant's financial background as a negative factor in a small number of cases. But as a University committed to the ideal of educating people who have earned admission to the University, it is important that the University

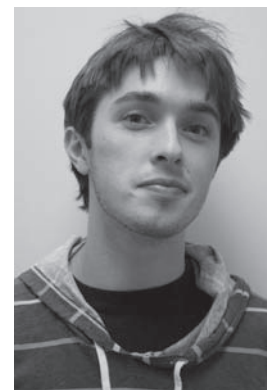
adopt need-blind admissions policy in order to make a statement about its ideological beliefs. And even though only small number of students may be rejected because of their parents' finances, it is still unjust discrimination that has lasting implications for the students affected; this is still a practice that significantly undermines the University's commitment to its mission. Even if it is small, it is still discrimination based on socioeconomic status, a wrong the University must correct.

With a smaller endowment revenue and donors who have informed the University they are uncertain if they can contribute in the future, now

is certainly a difficult time for Wash. U. to adopt a need-blind admissions policy. Adopting a need-blind admissions policy would certainly require some sacrifice. But on a deeper level, now is the most important time for the University to announce a policy on considering applicants regardless of their financial need. Adopting this policy in a time of economic uncertainty would serve to erase doubt about the University's priorities and serve as a reassurance to both students and applicants that they will have the opportunity to receive the highest-quality education regardless of their financial circumstances.

Shattering complacency on MLK day

Camille Nelson asks the right question, but is there a right answer?



Dennis Sweeney
Forum Editor

At the "Shattering Ceilings: Celebrating Success in Pursuit of the Dream" ceremony in Graham Chapel this Monday, held to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Washington University, I felt a sense of alienation and of absurdity for the first half of the proceedings.

The cover of the event's program sported a photograph of Martin Luther King, Jr. orating just above a startlingly similar picture of Barack Obama. Robin Smith, an Emmy Award-winning journalist from St. Louis, spoke in a nasally, newscaster voice shamelessly devoid of sincerity. The Black Anthology presented the faux journals of three youths at moments throughout the civil rights struggle of the last 50 or so years, the last of which was a young adult inspired and in many ways liberated by the election of a black man to be president of the United States.

Each moment of the ceremony was indeed "Celebrating Success," hinting at the United States' arrival at a better world, perhaps a raceless world. We watched West African dance company Afriky Lolo with a sense of integration, a sense of immersion in diversity, a sense of personal acceptance. We felt good about ourselves.

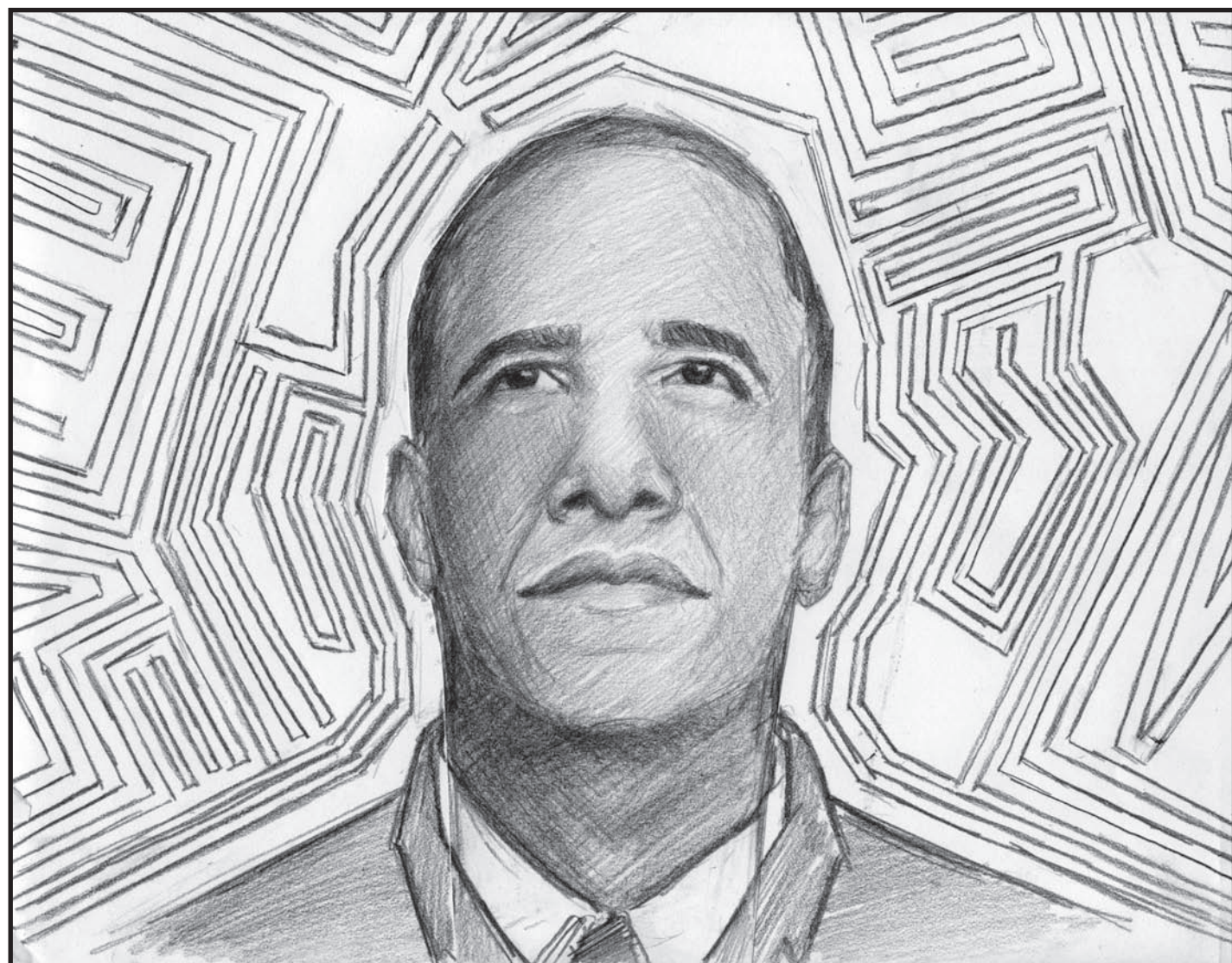
But I looked around in the midst of this exhibitionist exoticism and saw (though the dancing at the front was quite beauti-

ful) the people sitting around me, and I felt an almost tangible tenuousness in the "integration" of the chapel. Sure, black people and white people sat next to each other. Sure, we were all there to celebrate the civil rights movement's intimations toward an equal nation. But some of us were still white, and some of us were still black. And you could feel the difference.

Then Camille Nelson, professor of law at St. Louis University, came to the stage. The sound bites to which we reduce Martin Luther King, Jr.'s many words betray the radicalism of his message, she said. The acknowledgment only of his most agreeable "Injustice anywhere..." sentiments, and only of the most palatable pieces of "I have a dream," allows us (the avowedly liberal Washington University crowd) complacency, she said. It is wrong, the belief that we have achieved a raceless society because our president now is black, she said.

And she was right. The blackness of Barack Obama is indeed, as she said, a comfortably distant

See KING, page 5



GODIVA REISENBICHLER | STUDENT LIFE

Ain't nothing wrong with that

My abridged Obama journey

Dave Shapiro
Staff Columnist

I only remember the conversation because all of my Internet chats have been automatically logged. This one was with my father, and I was talking to him from Yale, where I was attending a debate camp. (You don't get into Washington University by being cool, that's for sure.) My dad wrote, "If you missed Barack Obama last night at the convention, you missed the future! Try to find a film of his speech online somewhere. It will blow you away. (You will definitely be voting for this guy for president someday.)"

My response: "Is he African or something?" Yeah. I'm not exactly the classiest person. My father, however, was determined to convey Obama's story, with his own touch of humor only a son could love. "You know, I'd bet that 'Obama' is the number-one word in e-mails this morning. His father was a Kenyan goat-

herd (no joke) and his mother a white woman from Kansas. They met at University of Hawaii (he a foreign student) and got married there. Then dad went back to Kenya and died (or some story like that). The first name is Hebrew, a version of Baruch (but, no, the mom is not Jewish.) So, yeah, he's black. But he's as much white as he is black."

I took my father's advice. I went on YouTube and found the speech. And I was hooked. I hadn't seen the West Wing yet, so it was the first time that I had ever seen a politician—real or fictional—speak so eloquently yet remain so clandestinely liberal. That's actually one of my favorite things about Obama—he is able to dupe people into thinking he's a "moderate." I'm cool with that because Obama and myself know it's for their own good. Sometimes, people need to be duped. They want to live in a fantasy world where "balance of power" means a Republican senator and Democratic senator. Some people think compromise can actually happen in Washington. The way I see it, Obama is either serious and really does want genuine compromise, which is great for everyone, or he is more liberal than Clinton, which is also great for everyone.

I fell back in love with Obama in Springfield, Ill. It was a cold February morning but he warmed the crowd. He is the cure for seasonal affective disorder. Do you

The way I see it, Obama is either serious and really does want genuine compromise, which is great for everyone, or he is more liberal than Clinton, which is also great for everyone.

understand? The reason Obama went from my computer screen at Yale to the freezing February in Lincoln Land to Washington, D.C. in winter is that he controls

time. He made every day election day. He made everyone feel like they were voters—from babies to the dead people recruited by faithful ACORN volunteers.

You read this on a Wednesday. Yesterday, Obama became president of the United States of America. I don't think my dad realized when he said that I would be voting for him someday that "someday" would be the first presidential election in which I could vote. I've come a long way with Obama from that fateful conversation in 2004 to my year-book page mention of Barack in 2005 to Illinois in 2007 and to D.C. in 2009. I'm obsessed, and I don't care. Better to be hooked on Barack than on drugs. I think. But my main point here, if there is one, is that it's okay to make fun of Obama. It's okay to be obsessed with him. It doesn't really matter because of how amazing Barack is. His car is called "the Beast." His personal aide played basketball for Duke. Young Jeezy made a rap about him. Obama is a black guy. Obama is a white guy. Now he's our guy. And he's my personal Jesus.

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High definition and the fall of cinema

AJ Sundar
Staff Columnist

High definition media has taken the industry by storm: It's exceedingly rare now to see a TV for sale that's not HD ready or HD capable, and screen sizes march toward ever-larger sizes across the board. However, this change concerns me, and if anything, I think that the changes are for the worse, not the better.

Now, I'm no Luddite—I love keeping up with the latest electronics and the advancement of technology—but I have to say that this time I think the industry is missing something significant here. With the advent of technologies that allow for crisper explosions and tighter computer graphic (CG) effects, I can't help but feel that in the process of high definition, movies have increasingly missed the value of art.

The year 2008 marked the highest point of HD integration, both in cinemas and in homes—adoption increased exponentially from the last year. In this columnist's opinion, 2008 also marked the lowest point in terms of depth and texture of movies overall. "The Dark Knight," while a great action film, really missed the mark in terms of character development and exploration, deciding rather to focus

on high-tension action scenes and special effects. I wish I could say that the movie was the exception, but across the highest grossing movies, flash abounded but substance declined, from CG effects in movies such as Kung Fu Panda and nuking the fridge in Indiana Jones. Even the Golden Globe for comedy was Sweeney Todd. Come on, Hollywood. A musical? Really?

Now, I'm not out to haphazardly review movies in sound-byte format. Rather, I think there's something to be said about the effects of high definition resolution, and consequently increased visual effects, on the quality and depth in movies. It seems that the farther we go in terms of effects, the more we lose out on movies that force us to think, that delve into the personas of the characters on screen, that reveal plots that are fully thought out and not haphazardly slapped together to make movies.

I realize that Hollywood caters to the lowest common denominator and that I shouldn't get my hopes up too much, but they have delivered before, and in no short order. For now, anyway, I'll go back to re-watching movies of the past, and I sincerely hope that 2009 will prove me wrong.

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YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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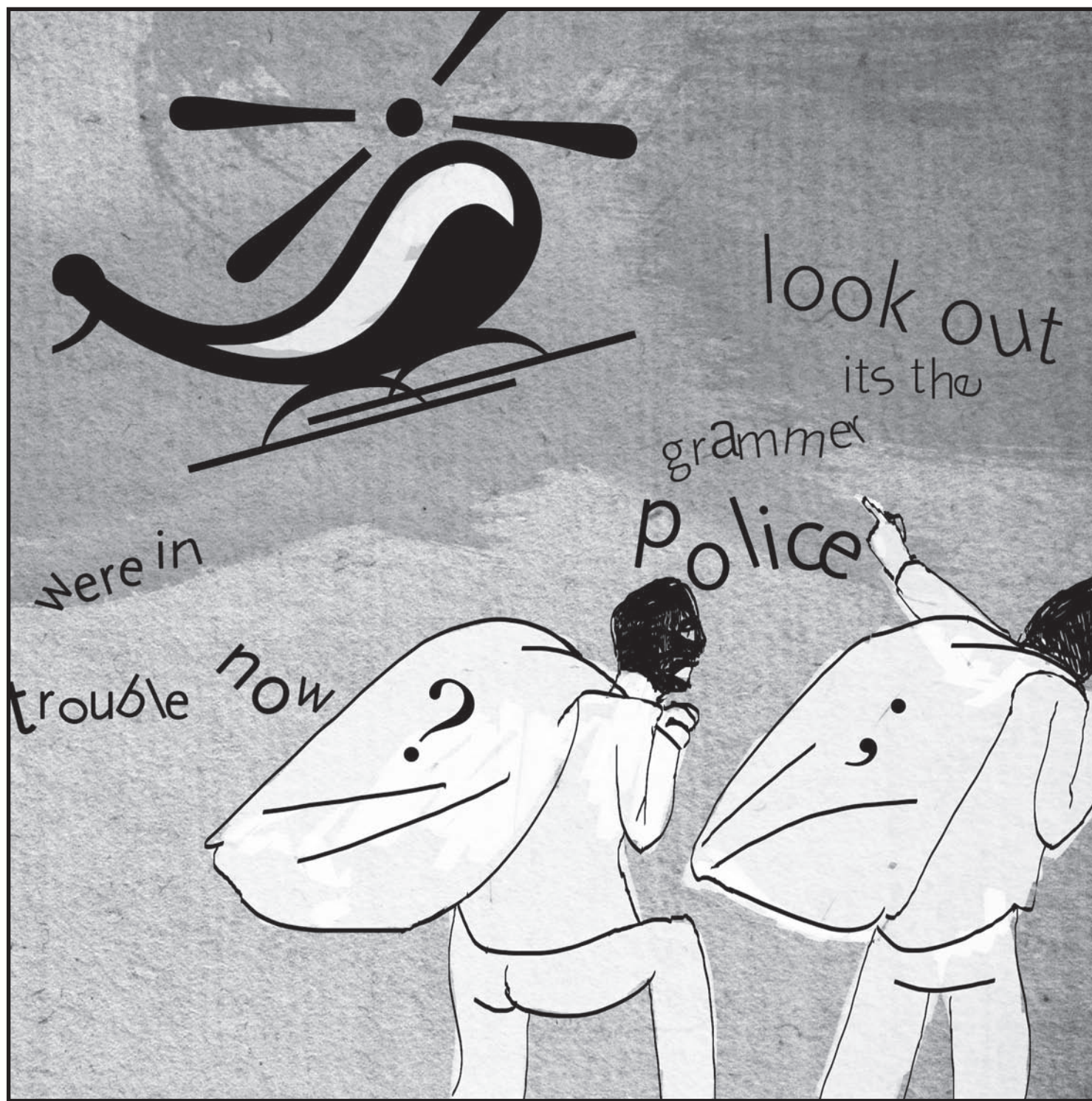
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MIKE HIRSHON | STUDENT LIFE

The grammar police

'You're' mistakes mean more than you think they do

Katie Ammann
Staff Columnist

W eeeee weeeeee! We have you surrounded! Come out with your hands up and your spell-checker turned off! The grammar police have a warrant for your arrest! Okay, so perhaps grammar errors aren't as serious as that, but they can be incredibly detrimental to your academic reputation and to your ability to communicate effectively. The impression you leave when you fail to proofread is one of carelessness or even ignorance. Here's a great example: There's a truck that's often parked along Skinker, and on it is a sign

that reads "pecan's." I'm pretty sure that the owner sells pecans and that it's not just a sign to let us know that the truck belongs to someone named Pecan. Pretty sure.

In some situations, like casual Facebook messages or e-mails to friends, it's alright to bypass capitalizations, apostrophes and some other elements of proper grammar, but when the message is for a professor, a TA or someone you do not know well, it's important to portray your best self (who presumably knows that the possessive "its" has no apostrophe and that you are affected, not effected, by today's economy). If you say things eloquently, concisely and properly, you might be setting yourself up for a better grade or a better chance at strong recommendation letters.

We all know that spell-check is not perfect, so don't rely on it to fix your mistakes. Proofread everything yourself. I've received many an e-mail including the word "their" for "they're" and vice versa. Here's an even more

common problem: People use "I" when they should use "me." I've even heard some of my professors say something like, "Send the assignment to the TA and I." Umm, that's "the TA and me," Mr.

I guess you could argue that as long as someone can get his or her point across, it doesn't matter how it's done.

I-Know-Everything-About-(Insert Subject Here)-But-Not-the-Basic-Rules-of-English. Despite my admiration of the professor's knowledge of his specialty, I lose a bit of respect for him each time he shows his ignorance of the

conventions of grammar.

Another problem that spell-check can't fix is pretense. If you're (not "your") not quite sure what a big word means, don't use it. For example, "irregardless" is not a word, and even if it were, it would not mean the same thing as "regardless." Remember that. Thanks. Oh, and don't say something like "he contacted me in regard to the individual in question" unless you're in court.

I guess you could argue that as long as someone can get his or her point across, it doesn't matter how it's done. Really, though, it seems that carelessness in the way you communicate often reflects carelessness in other parts of life. Plus, to say that it doesn't matter how something is done as long as someone gets the gist of it is like saying that as long as the car gets me someplace, it doesn't matter how it's made. Look where that got us.

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The curious case of 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button'

It was good, but it wasn't that good

Randy Brachman
Staff Columnist

I met a friend of mine at the airport while we were both going home for winter break. It was not planned; we just happened to be on the same plane. Naturally, we started talking, and I told him that I had only one goal for the break: to see "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." I'm not sure that that was completely accurate, but it was certainly good enough then, and it is good enough now.

I achieved that goal. Granted, it was neither particularly hard nor particularly impressive, but still. I was one for one this break.

I had very high expectations for this movie. David Fincher is one of my favorite directors. Brad Pitt is one of my favorite actors, or at least he is in a lot of my favorite movies (and really, what's the difference?). F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of my favorite authors. How could this movie possibly be bad?

And it wasn't. It wasn't nearly as good as I was hoping, though. It wasn't even as good as I was expecting it to be.

Walking out of the theater, I thought that Ben Button is what you would get if "The Notebook" and "Forrest Gump" had offspring. Granted, I liked "Forrest Gump," and I watched "The Notebook," but that does not mean that they should mate.

Ben Button would have been much better had it simply presented the narrative of the eponymous character's life. If the movie had started with his birth and ended with his death (disappearance into an invisible womb?), I probably would have put it into the spot I reserved for it on my list of favorite movies.

I appreciate the clock metaphor. However, did it really need

to be in the movie? I don't think it added anything at all, and it wasn't connected to the main plot in any tangible way. It didn't take up much screen time, but when you're dealing with a 168 minute run time, any trimming that can be done becomes necessary.

The other part of the movie that baffled me was the inclusion of the flash-forward Hurricane Katrina scenes. First of all, the "twist" that Julie Ormond's character was Brad Pitt's character's daughter can hardly be considered a twist at all. A good twist makes the audience rethink the rest of the movie. It turns events that had previously been insignificant into significant events. It makes the audience question their interpretations of events that had already happened. It is important in the overall plot of the movie. It is not glaringly obvious.

Unfortunately for everyone involved in this movie, this "twist" was none of those. There are very few people I have spoken to about this movie to who did not guess that Ormond was Pitt's daughter. There is no one who cared. The fact that Benjamin Button sired a child does not shed any light on his other actions. It does not develop his character. It does not make him a more sympathetic character. All it does is use up time.

The rest of the 2005 scenes only served to break up the action of the primary storyline. Did I ever care what Ormond or Cate Blanchett (whose makeup/CGI and performance was very good) had to say about what was happening in the narrative? No. It was just an awkward way to introduce a narrator who was not really necessary in the first place.

I wanted so much for this movie to be great. Mr. Fincher, you have disappointed me. That is not to say I did not like it; I did. But you could have done better. Next time, please do.

Randy is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at r.brachman@gmail.com.

MCT EDITORIAL CARTOON



MCT CAMPUS

A self-declared feminist

Taking a second look at a movement that helped shaped the world

Anna Sobotka
Staff Columnist

D uring high school, if someone had asked me if I was a feminist, I would have conjured an image of a girl with chopped, untamed hair, baggy clothes and an angry disposition, ready to chew anyone out for being content with the world. And then I would have definitively replied NO. I knew girls who fit my mental portrayal, and their fervor and angst turned me against feminism. I also knew that it was socially unattractive to ally oneself with the movement, which probably equally contributed to my aversion. In reality, I was never interested enough to think deeply about my gender or why feminism is important. It wasn't until college that I really began to consider what it meant to be a feminist because I started seeing it all around me.

I spent last semester abroad in Chile, and I remember quite distinctly a day in my Chilean culture class, when our professor pointed out that poet Gabriela Mistral, the first of the

two Chileans to win the Nobel Prize for literature, was unable to vote in her country's elections when she received the award. In 1945 she became the first Latin American to win a Nobel Prize for literature, and women did not gain suffrage in Chile until four years later in 1949. Obviously, I

I'm not really sure how I avoided thinking about feminism until college; it comes up everywhere—in movies, novels, popular culture and history.

was not ignorant to the centuries of female subjugation including a lack of suffrage, but this irony was too great not to puzzle over. Mistral had been deemed one of the most influential writers of the world; she had held professorships at Columbia and Middlebury, worked for the League of Nations and traveled extensively. And she could not vote.

For some odd reason, thinking

of female suffrage now always reminds me of Mary Poppins. The looney mother, Mrs. Banks, a suffragette, is always heading out to some rally, preparing sashes and even talks about how she and her group of women are going to chain themselves up for the movement. Her big scene in the movie is when she sings "Sister Suffragette" and prances around the hall spouting her feminist ideals. Beautiful and invested, she could have been a great image of female empowerment. And yet, when her husband is home she caters to his every whim, accepts his angry decrees and submits humbly to him. She is even portrayed as a little goofy and out of sorts, unable to keep track of her children, and her dedication to her cause comes off as almost superficial. Certainly, as a kid, I never read into Mrs. Banks at all. I was far more preoccupied with the implied romance between Mary and Bert, but looking back, the movie is an interesting commentary on the feminism of the time. Despite ideals, women were held back in their homes and by society.

Obviously, suffrage is just one element of feminism, albeit probably one of the most important ones. But just think, before all of the feminist mumbo jumbo started, women had few property rights, rarely got custody of their children in cases of divorce, were relegated to being teachers and nannies and had no solid place in academia. The fact that those

things have all changed now is not the result of men deciding to give their wives more freedom or a mere act of God; for the most part, feminists earned it.

I'm not really sure how I avoided thinking about feminism until college; it comes up everywhere—in movies, novels, popular culture and history. Nearly every study has a gender component. So I guess at some point, I opened my eyes and started looking for them, and I have realized how indebted I am to the women who have called themselves feminists. Without them, I would not have the memorable experience of casting my first presidential ballot. I would not be under the terrible stress of applying for jobs and to grad schools, but I would be applying for husbands, and, really, the world as I know it would not exist. And so I have gradually erased that negative stereotype in my mind and replaced the angry girl with a much less concrete figure that takes hundreds of forms with all kinds of hair, clothes and sexual preferences. I am a feminist because I am fascinated by the trajectory of my gender, because I am proud of how far we have come, because I am dedicated to making sure that my rights are never infringed upon because I am female.

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

KING from page 4

one. We do cite only the most universally-tolerable opinions of MLK, Jr. Her speech, for lack of a better word, was immensely ballsy—in the face of a mixed crowd, she interrupted the flow of a feel-good, pat-ourselves-on-the-back-for-not-being-overtly-racist fest with a forceful, irrefutable challenge to our basic modes of thought on race.

But the message of her talk was one step short. I support her thesis. We need systemic change, economically as well as socially, and until that happens we will not be where MLK, Jr. really, actually wanted us to be. But her advice on how to change—on who, in fact, is to blame and who, in fact, needs to change—was meager. And I think this was not due to lack of time or to lack of relevance, but to a lack of referent in the common rhetoric when the whole topic comes up.

Shortly, institutionalized racism (what I think Nelson was decrying) implies a product that is more than the sum of its parts. "Institutional" means that without any individual particularly consenting to it, or consciously contributing to it, the "system" in general discriminates against people of certain races. People will argue against this, but just as all white people will be accused of being at least subconsciously racist (which they generally are), black people can be accused of relinquishing agency in favor of the mindset of a victim having been screwed from the beginning (which they

also often are) but which is another kind of internalized racism that halts progress from the inside rather than the out.

The only body to call upon, then, is the government—not because it was ever responsible for institutionalized racism in the first place, but because they are the only ones who can really significantly change institutions. The problem, then, is this: We have to this point (for the last eight years) been able to place the blame on a conservative, white president who "doesn't care about black people." But now, Barack Obama will come to office, we will all feel good about the racial equity of our nation, and institutionalized racial inequality will continue to be the case because really, no matter who is in office, the kind of broad systemic change that would have to occur to eliminate it is not going to happen.

I throw my chips in with what Camille Nelson did have to say. But I see in the absence of a detailed and coherent prescription something that scares me more than our ignorance of MLK, Jr.'s essential message: an absence of any blameable cause for pervasive, institutionalized national racism and a corresponding inability to do anything about it.

Dennis is a junior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum Editor. He can be reached via e-mail at sweeney@wustl.edu.

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bears outlast Case for first place

Alex Dropkin
Sports Editor

The No. 3 Washington University men's basketball team (13-1, 3-0 UAA) grabbed sole possession of first place in the University Athletic Association Friday night. However, the 88-77 win over Case Western Reserve University did not come easily.

"The thing about the UAA is that anybody can beat anybody on a given night, so really taking care of your home floor and beating the teams that you should beat is what you have to do to win the UAA. You're going up against good teams, and if you split, that's basically what you're looking for," junior co-captain Aaron Thompson said.

Senior Tyler Nading dropped 21 points, and Thompson scored 19 to lead the Red and Green, and both junior Zach Kelly and sophomore Caleb Knepper also scored in double figures.

Despite entering the game with a 4-8 overall record, the Spartans stunned the home crowd with a 20-12 lead midway through the first half. Senior guard Steve Young was the main driving force for Case, hitting his first three shots from beyond the arc. Young finished with 11 points in the half and 21 points overall.

"We knew that they were going to come out tough. Every team that we've played this year has come out knowing that we're the team they want to beat and that they come out and play differently than they show on paper," Nading said. "We knew Case wasn't going to be the 4-8 team that they were, and true to form, in the first half, they hit just about every shot they took. We weren't surprised."

The Bears responded to this deficit with a 10-0 run, aided by four points from junior John Wolf and five from freshman Dylan Richter, but soon

found themselves down again after Case's own 7-0 run with seven minutes left in the half.

Thompson scored the final basket before halftime, cutting Washington's deficit to four points heading into the locker room.

Coming out from the locker room, the Spartans were a different team. Taking advantage of their 0-5 start to the half, Thompson scored Wash. U.'s first seven points in an 11-2 run, reclaiming the lead, 41-38. By the 12:14 mark, the Bears had built a double-digit lead.

"We went into the locker room at halftime and talked about what we needed to do, and then we came out and did much better in the second half. A lot of it was defensively," Nading said.

As Case Western narrowed the lead to just three points, Kelly hit a layup that sparked a 13-4 run, putting the Bears ahead 76-64 and putting the game out of reach.

Sunday morning's game against Emory University was much less of a contest. The Bears scored 12 unanswered points to start the game, eight of which came from Thompson. All 14 of his points came in the first half, hitting three of four from three-point range.

"When our guys do a good job of moving the ball around, setting picks for me and getting me open, it's pretty easy to knock down shots. I have to give [my teammates] all the credit. They do a great job of getting me open and giving me the ball where I need it," Thompson said.

The Eagles hit their first shot with 15:43 left in the first half but could not escape a 20-point deficit after a pair of free throws from Nading. Senior Sean Wallis and Thompson then hit back-to-back threes to prevent any chance of an Emory comeback, stretching the lead, 40-18.

In the second half, Knepper scored 10 points to extend the lead to 32 as the



Senior point guard Sean Wallis looks to pass after driving baseline against Case Western Reserve University on Friday.

Bears coasted to their 13th win of the season. Nading, Wallis, Thompson and Knepper all scored in double figures.

With this 79-58 win, Washington University holds a 42-3 record at home since the 2005-2006 season. Coach Mark Edwards also recorded his 490th

win as head coach.

The Bears will be away from home over the next two weekends, beginning this Friday Jan. 23, against the University of Rochester (9-2, 2-1 UAA). The team then faces No. 18 Carnegie Mellon University (11-2, 2-1 UAA).

WU SWIMMING

Home meet goes off swimmingly

Becky Chanis
Sports Reporter

The Washington University swimming and diving team hosted its annual Washington University Invitational on Jan. 16 and 17. The meet featured seven universities, with Wash. U.'s women taking first place and the men taking second place to the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The Bears also earned first place overall, with the combined men's and women's score of 1,586.5.

"They showed a lot of grit this weekend," Head Coach Brad Shively said.

The Wash. U. women started off strong, with sophomores Claire Henderson and Karin Underwood and freshmen Catherine Rafferty-Millett and Karina Stridh grabbing second in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:52.16. Senior Kelly Kono, freshman Samantha Schulte, junior Jessie Lodewyk and freshman Amy VanLishout captured first through fourth places in the 500-yard freestyle event.

Underwood then took first in the 200-yard backstroke, Stridh took the 100-yard freestyle and Underwood, Schulte, VanLishout and Lodewyk won the 800-yard freestyle relay to give Wash. U. the lead after day one.

Day two featured much of the same, with Lodewyk and Schulte earning both first and second in the 1,650-yard freestyle, swimming respective times of 17:52.08 and 17:54.56. The Bears also finished first in the 400-meter freestyle relay, clinching first place in the last

event. "I think it was a really nice way to wrap up our last home meet of the year," Kono, a co-captain, said. "I was just really proud that the girls' team stepped it up and won the meet. We lost by 10 points to DePauw University at the beginning of the season."

The Wash. U. men proved to be equally competitive, with senior Kevin Leckey, juniors Alex Beyer and Dan Artega and sophomore David Chao out-touching Lindenwood University in the very first event to snatch second place by 0.59 seconds.

Beyer and freshman Chris Valach raced first and second in the 500-yard freestyle, as the men also took a day-one lead in the meet.

On day two, senior Charles Stewart, Leckey, Artega and Chao took the 200-meter freestyle relay, Beyer took the 400-meter individual medley and Chao took the 200-meter freestyle. The Bears ended the meet with a victory over Missouri S&T in the 400-meter freestyle relay but finished in second place for the meet by more than 100 points.

"I was just happy about how competitive they were this weekend," Shively said.

The team finishes the regular season with a dual meet against Principia College on Friday. The Bears then travel to the University of Chicago for the UAA Championship meet on Feb. 11-14 before the Midwest Invitational and finally the NCAA Championship meet.

"I hope it did a lot for their confidence...I'm very excited about UAAs," Shively said.



Junior Alex Beyer swims during the Washington University invitational over the weekend.

For women's basketball and track coverage, see Thursday's online and Friday's print edition of Student Life.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

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- #4 TURKEY TOM**
Fresh sliced turkey breast, topped with lettuce, tomato, alfalfa sprouts, and mayo. (The original)
- #5 VITO**
The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Hot peppers by request)
- #6 VEGETARIAN**
Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, alfalfa sprouts, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato, and mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only... peace dude!)
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Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav' ta order hot peppers, just ask!)
- #10 HUNTER'S CLUB**
A full 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.
- #11 COUNTRY CLUB**
Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)
- #12 BEACH CLUB**
Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal, and it ain't even California.)
- #13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB**
Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)
- #14 BOOTLEGGERS CLUB**
Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!
- #15 CLUB TUNA**
The same as our #3 Totally Tuna except this one has a lot more. Fresh housemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato.
- #16 CLUB LULU**
Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)
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SCENE

"The Rhythm Section" invades University City

Student art on display

Eric Rosenbaum
Scene Reporter

When senior Emily Silber learned that one of her sculptures had been purchased for permanent installation, she had mixed emotions.

"I felt excited and a little nervous because I had never done anything like this before," she said. "My roommates and I were screaming, and I immediately called my parents."

Silber's work, entitled "The Rhythm Section," was installed in the windows of the Centennial Commons in University City in October. The sculpture consists of five silhouetted dancers in various poses, each painted in a different bright color.

"First, the silhouettes were going to go in front of the dance school and the music school," she said. "I was thinking of the energies that go on in the building."

Silber first created "The Rhythm Section" last March for an annual competition sponsored by the University City Arts and Letters Commission in which Washington University juniors propose sculptures to be placed in front of the Center of Contemporary Arts and the 560 Building on Delmar. Six students were chosen, but all winners' work was removed from the location in May.

"It was an exciting and also frustrating process," she said. "My favorite part was working with my friends. I had every one of my friends helping me. It was a lot of fun just listening to music and painting."

Silber gave a speech at the installation of her sculpture, and it was after this speech that she first met Tom



Emily Silber's sculpture entitled "The Rhythm Section" is located outside of the Centennial Commons in University City.

McCarthy, the assistant recreation superintendent of University City and the man who would send her that fateful e-mail months later.

"He came up and talked to me and said, 'We'd like to put your sculptures in front of our building,'" Silber explained. "He didn't talk about making it permanent yet."

It was last summer that McCarthy informed her that he wanted to buy her sculpture.

As it stood, "The Rhythm Section" was made of foam and rebar, not material capable of surviving for years on end. The University City Arts and Letters Commission paid an extra \$2,900 to coat it in fiberglass and to give it a concrete base.

This is not the first time Silber has had one of her pieces publicly displayed. This year she also presented a sculpture called "Sinking Playhouse" for a political art competition. The

sculpture, which stood near the South 40 basketball courts, was a miniature house half-buried in the ground.

"That [sculpture] was about the economic crisis and about how so many people are losing their homes," Silber explained. "I thought of it as a playhouse, and I think of college as a playhouse for [kids] our age to define ourselves and figure out who we are."

"Maybe we are thinking differently now that there is this economic crisis," she added.

After college, Silber would like to complete a Master's of Fine Arts degree and ultimately buy a studio of her own. She has also considered teaching sculpture at a university, as well as working with architects to design artistic spaces around public buildings.

Whatever she does, part of her resumé will always be in St. Louis, free for everyone to see.

Health beat

Running on all eight cylinders

The benefits of drinking vegetable juice

Brooke Genkin
Online Editor

The benefits of drinking vegetable juice have long been touted, but it wasn't until a good friend of mine spent a week at a yoga retreat that I actually gave it any consideration. Don't get me wrong—I love my vegetables, but drinking them? It just didn't seem appetizing.

After trying it, however, I soon found that vegetable juice could serve as the perfect afternoon snack or beginning to a meal. It curbs your appetite while delivering lots of nutrition.

The best form of vegetable juice is when it is juiced fresh—taking raw vegetables and sending them through a "juicer" machine that removes pulp and squeezes out the juice. This is a practice you may want to consider once you have tried juicing and are sure you would like to continue. However, since most of us are on a college budget and schedule, this is not such a feasible option.

If you would like to sample fresh vegetable juices without having to purchase your own machine I encourage you to investigate some of the local restaurants and eateries that make their own vegetable and fruit juices. One such establishment is Smoothie & Juice, located on Clayton Road in the same strip mall as Schnucks. It has an excellent selection of juices, some of which are combined for optimal organ-system cleansing.

But how reliable are these assertions? Do they actually "cleanse" your systems? To a certain extent there is validity to the claims, as plenty of research has been done on the effect vegetables have on the organ systems. For example, some of them act as diuretics, flushing the body of water, and others as laxatives, which cleanse the colon. When combined in concentrated amounts and put into just one glass, it is reasonable to expect that the benefits of vegetables are present in even greater concentrations.

What juice promoters fail to men-

tion is that eating vegetables, raw or cooked, can be more satiating because they contain the fiber and cellulose that are removed during juicing. So why juice at all? The basic idea of drinking vegetable juice is to get the vitamins and minerals provided by vegetables in a concentrated and tasty way as well as to mix them in ways that provide additional direct health benefits.

If you're interested in learning how to juice, I encourage you to check out some books from the library or even a local bookstore to learn more about the perceived health benefits.

For now, I have outlined the benefits of the most commonly packaged vegetable juices—carrot, tomato and vegetable blends:

Carrot juice:

As one of the most potent sources of Vitamin A in our daily diets, carrots are often touted as a "sight-improving" food. Vitamin A strengthens eyes, proving especially helpful in sharpening night vision. The average eight-ounce glass of juice contains two to three carrots.

Carrots are also rich sources of Vitamin E, which is linked to new growth and cell division and is used by the body to renew and repair tissues. Vitamin E strengthens nails, hair and enamel on teeth, and because it promotes healthy cell growth and division, it is believed to play an essential role in preventing cancerous cells from developing.

To change up the recipe, try mixing 100 percent carrot juice with orange juice for a jumpstart to your morning, or mix with apple juice for an afternoon snack.

Tomato juice:

Tomato juice contains a concentrated amount of lycopene, a plant pigment and phytochemical that has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer. Because the effects of this phytochemical are enhanced when ingested in larger

quantities, tomato juice is the optimal way to get plenty of lycopene—as much as it would probably take eating three or more full tomatoes to reach the amount of lycopene in just one eight-ounce glass of tomato juice.

There has also been a factor found in tomato juice that results in blood thinning, which reduces the chances of clotting diseases and other conditions such as sickle-cell anemia and type 2 diabetes. Tomato juice also contains Vitamin C and potassium, both of which are used for daily metabolic processes and bolster the immune system. The juice reduces hunger, improves digestion and when mixed with spinach juice will relieve constipation.

Mixed vegetable juice:

V8 and other brands do a great job of mixing proportions of tomato juice, watercress, spinach, beets, etc. Beets and carrots in combination improve circulation and have been linked to liver cleansing. Parsley, celery and carrots in combination are used for kidney stimulation. Kale and spinach are often added to other mixes to improve elimination, and ginger has been known to lessen nausea and improve digestion.

There are several combinations of vegetable juice available for sale, including low-sodium, high-fiber, immunity-improving and a spicy flavor for the more adventurous vegetable juice drinkers. You can find a variety of these bottled mixed vegetable juices in most on-campus eateries.

Of course, juicing is not for everyone. In the event that it is not for you, stick to raw or cooked vegetables and you'll do just fine. But if eating vegetables is not your thing, I strongly encourage you to try drinking them, because, ironically, vegetable juice tends to be a more palatable way for non-veggie eaters to get the nutrition they need in a fast and convenient way.

Sources: www.soymilk.com, health-care.eu, www.living-foods.com

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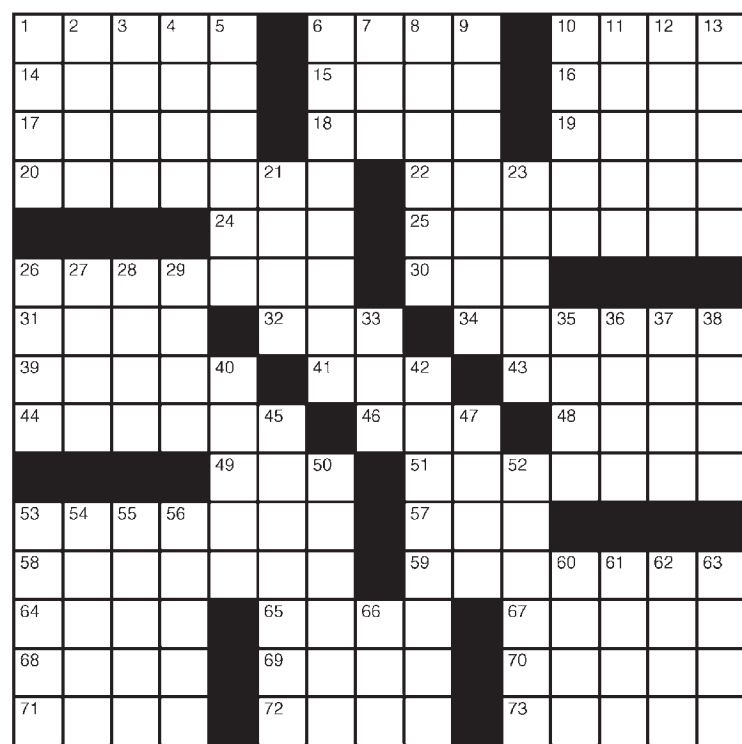
But if you do (and why wouldn't you?) StudLife is recruiting fresh talent to write weekly columns for Romance 101 and Stepping Out.

Experience is highly encouraged, but not necessary. If interested, contact scene@studlife.com.

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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Light wood
6 English bloke
10 Fortas and Lincoln
14 Fictional ID
15 Top-drawer
16 Anthracite, e.g.
17 Frolics
18 Mooring place
19 Schlep
20 Nautically nauseous
22 Brought into harmony
24 D.C. VIP
25 Gets more profound
26 Oscar-winning Italian director
30 European eagle
31 Actress Falco
32 Blast letters
34 Tension
39 Move slyly
41 Long period
43 Inasmuch as
44 Hussein of Iraq
46 Director Craven
48 Fine, black stuff
49 Viscous liquid
51 Certifies under oath
53 Lie back
57 Pekoe, e.g.
58 Edmond and Conan
59 Renowned
64 Spirit
65 Stiff collar
67 Dike
68 500-mile race
69 Antisocial
70 Wipe out
71 Sense organs
72 Risked getting a ticket
73 Things to avoid
- DOWN
1 Obstacles
2 Soap additive
3 Succotash bean
4 Drains
5 Italian pilgrimage site
6 Second half of a golf course
7 Australian joey
8 Cross a border
9 Rocks on the edge
10 Throw a scene
11 American frontiersman
12 Rusted through
13 Toboggans
21 Smallest change
23 Camping equipment
26 ___ up (admit)
27 "Giant" writer
28 Made stuff up
29 Star part
33 Pull behind
35 Float up
36 Adam's grandson
37 Highlander
38 Collectors' groups
40 Couric of TV
42 Made tidy
45 Good behavior
47 Pipe part



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1/21/09

Solutions

S	I	N	O	D	D	E	D	S	S	E	A	E
E	S	V	H	E	E	D	H	A	D	N	I	
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L	N	E	N	I	W	E	S	N	E	I	R	B
S	I	S	E	L	V	R	V	A	L			
L	O	O	S	S	E	M	W	V	D	D	V	S
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L	V	O	C	E	N	O	V	A	S	V	I	L
B	E	S	A	B	V	A	B	R	I	T	A	B

- 50 Conserve one's strength
52 Followed
53 Comic/actress O'Donnell
54 Black
55 Rough
56 Tomlin and Pons
60 Notorious fiddler
61 Bayh or Hunter
62 Snug spot
63 Golf shop giveaways
66 Keats piece

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Sudoku By The Mephram Group

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

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 Friday's puzzle

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

CADENZA

Life After the “Harry Potter” Books

Alex Terrano
Cadenza Reporter

July 21, 2007, 2 p.m. After 13 hours of almost continuous reading, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” was sitting closed on my bed staring back at me. “All was well,” J.K. Rowling wrote at the end, but was it? Sure, the story was wrapped up nicely, but all was not well in my life. What was I to do without the trials and tribulations of Harry and company?

Since the release of “Deathly Hallows,” the fandom has died down considerably. There are fewer people in the chat rooms and fewer news stories to spark online chatter. The only remaining theories are inconsequential to the plot of the books and will all be answered in Rowling’s future Harry Potter encyclopedia. My life emptied, and I knew nothing would be the same.

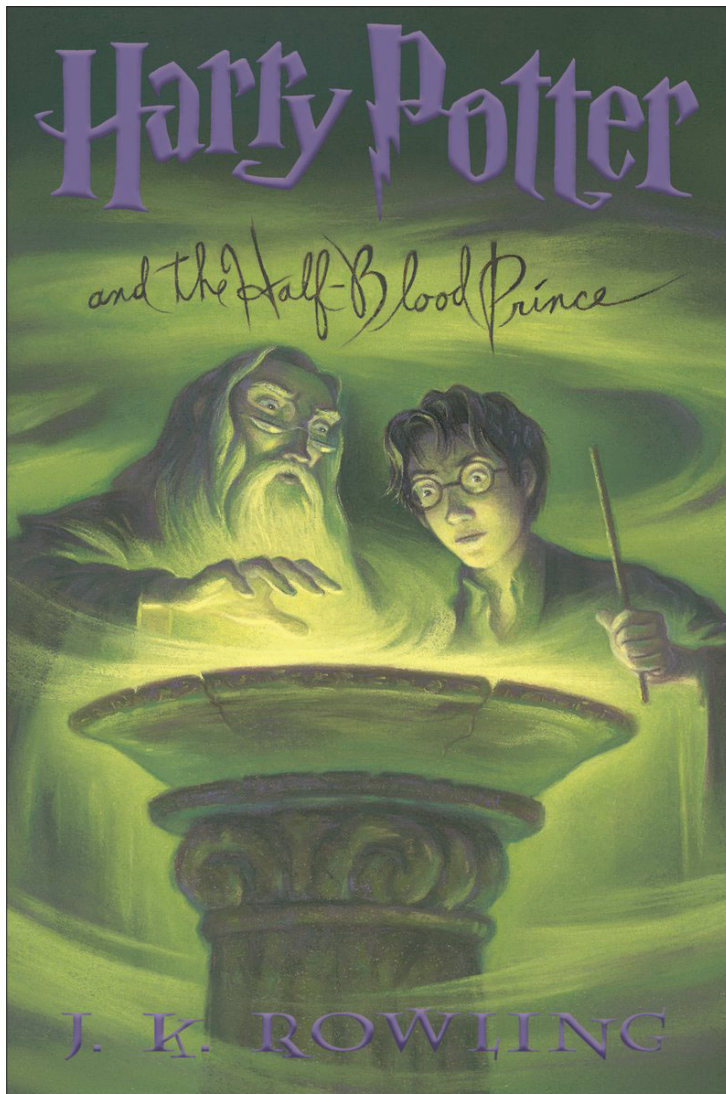
It was no longer acceptable to dress up in my Harry Potter costume, and suddenly, oddly, I got weird looks for saying I listen to Harry Potter podcasts. I had gotten used to the constant theorizing and the endless wait for conclusion. There was now a hole where that curiosity used to be. I had time to explore and obsess about other book series (“Twilight”). I expanded my interests and explored other activities. I even had time to write my college essay about my love for the books. Certainly, these

were positive ways to replace “Harry Potter,” but they weren’t very satisfying.

The “Harry Potter” series also fueled my love for reading and taught me how to better analyze books. Looking for hidden clues throughout the series prepared me for future English classes. “Harry Potter” has helped me in so many ways, but that still didn’t make up for the fact that it left me so empty when it ended. I’m not going to lie, I was a little mad at J.K. Rowling. Our relationship became akin to an addict and a callous supplier: I wanted more, and she wasn’t selling.

It is true that there are still three upcoming movies. Rowling’s “The Tales of Beetle the Bard,” a fictional children’s book of tales referenced in the seventh book, was released on Dec. 4. There is hope for the future encyclopedia, in which Rowling will reveal everything that she’s left out of the series, such as the various side characters’ middle names.

While these are all exciting future prospects, none of them can make up for the feeling that Harry’s journey is over. I will never again open a “Harry Potter” book for the first time, wondering who is going to make it out alive. There is no more anticipation or worry. There is just the comfort of beloved stories and old memories of past excitement, leaving me wondering whether, in retrospect, all of the emptiness is worthwhile. Whither away, Harry?



ALBUM REVIEW

Noble Beast Andrew Bird

Sophie Adelman
Cadenza Reporter

In March of 2008, Andrew Bird wrote in his blog for the New York Times: “The record I want to make here and now—the one I wish I could find in my local record store—is a gentle, lulling, polyrhythmic, minimalist yet warm tapestry of acoustic instruments. No solos, just interlocking parts. A little Steve Reich, but groovier. A little Ghanaian street music, but more arranged. Thick and creamy vocals like the Zombies’ Colin Blunstone. The bass warm and tubby like Studio One dub.”

Got all that? If you’re having a bit of trouble pinning down all those musical references, don’t worry. Bird isn’t exactly the easiest person to label, other than with the tired and frustratingly broad label “indie rock.” The best adjective might be eclectic, since he’s got a constant intermingling of instruments and techniques, including his own violin, guitar and glockenspiel playing. Did I

mention he whistles a lot, too?

Enigmas aside, Bird has certainly succeeded with his latest release, “Noble Beast,” a fittingly multifaceted album for an exceedingly multitalented artist. Bird shines in the intricacies of his music, creating painstakingly-layered pieces of guitar loops and punctuated percussion, including handclapping and some of the most ridiculously-skilled whistling you have ever heard.

The album starts off with the first single to be released, “Oh No,” with a rich melodic introduction and some more of that groovy whistling. It’s relatively up-tempo for Bird and definitely finger-snapping, toe-tapping material. The lyrics are also alternately hilarious and esoteric. For example: Bird crooning about “wearing nothing but a onesie and a veil.” Enough said.

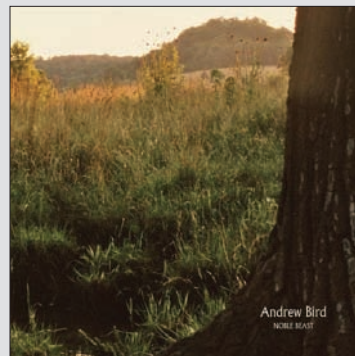
“Anonanimal,” aside from being a lot of fun to say, showcases Bird’s violin skills, melding with soft rhythms, then changing entirely to a loopy, base-heavy bridge, followed by up-tempo rock and soaring vocals. It’s a lot to fit

into one song but a testament to Bird’s prowess that he manages (or dares) to do it anyway.

Bird features those rambunctious yet arranged beats of Ghanaian street music in the introduction to “Not a Robot, but a Ghost,” which is a nice departure from his usual flowing style. The introduction merges into minor chords, then again into a fast-paced tempo mingled with the strains of what sounds like a sitar. It’s a great example of Bird’s ability to move seamlessly between vocal and instrumental emphasis, creating effortless harmony between seemingly incongruous sounds.

Bird is certainly a popular choice among the indie set, and in the eyes of many, his genius can do no wrong. However, it is hard not to feel that Bird relies on his groovy, all-instrument-encompassing style a little too heavily. There are times when the constant swells of violins seem reminiscent of about 30 of his other tracks, crossing the tricky line between stylistic and formulaic. That being said, fans will love the continued strength and consistency of

“Noble Beast,” an album that will be sure to win over new and old fans.



★★★★☆

for fans of
Squirrel Nut Zippers

tracks to download
“Oh No,” “Anonanimal,”
“Not a Robot, but a Ghost”

ALBUM REVIEW

Merriweather Post Pavillion Animal Collective

Hannah Schwartz
Cadenza Reporter

Animal Collective is not your run-of-the-mill, avant-garde/psychedelic folk/kaleidoscopic musical collective. Formed in 2000, band members Avey Tare, Panda Bear, Deakin and Geologist have released nine albums that constantly redefine their sound, refusing to be typecast into a particular musical genre without alienating their large and ever-growing indie-rock following.

Their latest album, “Merriweather Post Pavilion,” has been the subject of so much speculation and hype in the musical community that the possibility of backlash and disappointment arose. Not to worry, hipsters around the world, “Merriweather” combines all the best elements of their previous albums into a record that is flowing and continuous without sacrificing originality in each track.

“Merriweather” proves the maturity of the ever-evolving group with songs like “No More Runnin’” and “My Girls,” where Tare sings “With a little girl, and by my spouse/I only want a proper house.” But more importantly, the album is infused with an infectious happiness that sets it apart from their previous albums while at the same time allowing the songs a wider and more diverse audience. No matter how impressively constructed and executed the songs are on past Animal Collective albums, listening can be quite exhausting and not always enjoyable—but no matter. If this album has to accept the label of “pop” in order to gain enjoyability, so be it. Tracks like “Summertime Clothes” with its Beach Boys-esque harmonies, and “Lion in a Coma,” a bouncy, head-bopping confection that still includes the synthesized, off-tempo vocals that we know and love, are effervescent, dreamy melodies that also inspire the (indie) listener to dance.

Some of the songs in the midst of

the album tend to run together, such as “Bluish” and “Daily Routine,” which suffer from a slight meandering and repetitiveness that can become tiresome. But the lagging in these few tracks is more than compensated by just about every other track, ultimately leaving listeners with a superb album.

Named after an outdoor concert venue that has hosted acts such as John Mayer, Mariah Carey and Led Zeppelin, “Merriweather Post Pavilion” signifies Animal Collective’s move into the well-deserved spotlight while dispelling any fears that their sound has become too mainstream. Bloggers everywhere proclaimed it the best album of 2009 before the year even began but that might be just a tad preemptive.

Regardless, if triumphant Afro-tribal closing track “Brothersport” is any indication, the members of Animal Collective welcome what everyone else has to offer: “Open up your throat” and give it your best shot—the bar has been set high.



★★★★☆

for fans of
Grizzly Bear, Atlas Sound,
Akron/Family

tracks to download
“Summertime Clothes,” “My
Girls,” “Lion in a Coma,” “Taste”

FILM REVIEW

Notorious

Alex Terrano
Cadenza Reporter



★★★★☆

directed by
George Tillman Jr.

and starring
Jamal Woolard, Angela Bassett,
Derek Luke

So everyone, or most people, knows Christopher Wallace. Whether you know him as Christopher, Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls, you’ve at least heard the story of his death. “Notorious” tells Biggie’s story, from his first drug deal to the aftermath of his shooting.

The film begins with Christopher Wallace (first played by Biggie’s real-life son Christopher Jordan Wallace and then by Jamal Woolard) narrating his journey from Catholic school student to rap legend. He starts out as a large eight-year-old mama’s boy who isn’t allowed to leave the stoop. One day, he decides he wants to become like the neighborhood kids with their gold chains and new shoes. He disobeys his mother (Angela Bassett) and leaves the bottom step, thus beginning his career as a drug dealer.

Years later, during a sentence in jail, B.I.G. begins to write rhymes to pass the time. Once out, he hooks up with a young Sean “Puffy” Combs (Derek Luke). From there, after a few complications, Wallace releases his first single (“Juicy”) and becomes a rap phenomenon.

Along the way, Biggie becomes involved romantically with at least three women, including rapper Lil’ Kim (Naturi Naughton) and wife Faith Evans (Antonique Smith), whose courtships overlap each other.

Here appears one of the problems of “Notorious.” Is Biggie a religious mama’s boy? Or is he a playboy rapper/drug dealer? If he’s both, how do his two sides exist simultaneously? This last question is never addressed, and Wallace seems to travel through life as a loveable mama’s boy one second and then change the next second to a violent, overbearing thug. Never does there seem to be a conflict between his two faces.

Of course, through the chronicling of the Notorious B.I.G.’s life, his involvement in the battle between East Coast and West Coast rap makes an appearance, but the story line is jumpy and underdeveloped. “Notorious” doesn’t clearly explain how the shooting of Tupac Shakur (questionably played by Anthony Mackie) in a Manhattan recording immediately led to the biggest war in rap history. Nor

does it adequately link the battle to the deaths of both Tupac and Biggie. Sure the link is insinuated at various moments, but the film also skirts around creating a direct connection, most likely trying to avoid controversy.

That isn’t to say that “Notorious” wasn’t a strong film in many other ways. Derek Luke as Puffy was one of the most entertaining characters in film, namely when he would break out into dance in the middle of Biggie’s performances. Angela Bassett was also phenomenal as Voletta Wallace, especially in the last scene of the movie when she realizes how much of an impact her son had on so many people.

As the lead actor, Jamal Woolard did a respectable job of portraying the big rapper, though his off-screen narration sounded forced and cheesy much of the time. The soundtrack, consisting of many of Biggie’s classics, significantly improved the film, lending atmosphere and performances to the sometimes-bland movie.

Overall, “Notorious” was a funny, entertaining, enlightening portrait of Christopher Wallace’s life. Though at times the film seems to skew what happened, choosing to idolize the rapper when he might be at fault for various events in his life; by the end, all (or some) is forgiven. Sure, the cinematography, acting and storytelling are inconsistent at times, but would those be reasons to see this movie in the first place? Probably not. “Notorious” has all the elements it needs to entertain those of you who would want to see it: a phenomenal soundtrack, an entertaining storyline and a hero rap legend left idolized and immortalized.

ALBUM REVIEW

Fame, Fortune and Fornication Reel Big Fish

Cici Coquillette
Cadenza Reporter



★★★★☆

for fans of
Sublime, Mustard Plug

tracks to download
“Nothin’ But a Good Time,”
“Mama We’re All Crazy Now,”
“Authority Song”

Reel Big Fish’s most recent album, “Fame, Fortune, and Fornication,” is an energetic compilation of 10 covers ranging from Slade to Desmond Dekker. The band is clearly enjoying their freedom after being dropped from Jive Records in 2006: The whole album is a labor of love. People typically love or hate cover albums, particularly in the wake of a series pop-punk abominations, but RBF goes beyond mere lip service to reinterpretations of each song that benefit from the ska makeover.

The first track starts off with a bang. Their cover of Poison’s “Nothin’ but a Good Time” loses some of the tawdry Sunset Strip veneer but kicks up the tempo and lets the joy of the track shine through. The bright horn blasts and standard ska guitar may not have the same attitude as C.C. DeVille’s hair metal guitar licks, but the result is an incredibly upbeat and infectious cover. In keeping with the hair metal influence, they follow up with Slade’s “Mama, We’re All Crazy Now” which had been previously covered by Quiet Riot. The vocals take on an ironic drawl, punctuated by emphatic shouts of “Come on!” and the drumming is pure punk.

Half the fun of the album is translating other genres into ska patterns, so it’s fascinating to see how RBF handles covers of other ska songs. They cover their protégé, Edna’s Goldfish, on “Veronica Sawyer.” While Edna’s Goldfish was a remarkably short-lived band, they amassed an impressive touring résumé in their three-year existence. The cover keeps the ska flavor intact but loses the angst and adolescent excitement in favor of a more polished sound. RBF makes up for that lost emotion with their rendition of John Mellencamp’s “Authority Song.” They jack up the tempo and let the rolling riff

rock out. The track is very third-wave punk influenced, both in the musician-ship and the defiant mock-defeat as singer Aaron Barrett howls, “When I fight authority, authority always wins.” The addition of a chorus of “I Fought the Law,” a key change, and a sweet guitar solo complete the track.

From there, the album begins to fade. The songs are solid but don’t have as much of the joyful abandon of the early tracks. Their take on The Eagles’ “The Long Run” would have been a great place to turn up the tempo and energy. Similarly, “Won’t Back Down” returns to its reggae/ska roots but suffers for its laid-back timing. These songs provide an opportunity for RBF to show off their reggae chops, but their cover of “Monkey Man” brings back the hilarity that adds to their sound.

As we wait for RBF’s next original album, scheduled to be released later this year, “Fame, Fortune, and Fornication” is a brilliant way to get a ska fix and appreciate past songs we’ve loved.