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STUDENT LIFE

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

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Friday, February 13, 2009

Free music service ended, no plans for replacement yet

Becca Krock
Staff Reporter

Ruckus, the legal downloading service available free to college students, shut down without warning last week, leaving the University to find a new legal source of music downloads for students.

The music service folded on Friday, Feb. 6, fewer than two years after Washington University signed a contract with it in the fall 2006 semester. Previously downloaded files are no longer accessible, and any attempts to reach the Ruckus Web site yield the message: "Unfortunately the Ruckus service will no longer be provided."

According to Campus Life Coordinator for Special Projects Mary Zabriskie, contract-holding schools were not notified until the following Monday. Despite the short notice, administrators and Student Union (SU) will begin to look for another service, starting with a meeting Friday to discuss alternatives.

SU Vice President of Administration Jeff Nelson said that all options are on the table, and student input will be considered in making a new choice.

"What's important is to look at the convenience of the service, but also the legality of the service, and what type of contract the University as a whole would have to get into" Nelson said. "Part of what we're going to have to do is look into things, have some students test them out and maybe have a focus group."

Ruckus's biggest advantage—its affordability—may have been the cause for its collapse.

"At the time [it was first offered], Ruckus was one of the few services that would allow free downloads of music," Nelson said. "There wasn't a huge cost that the University would have to take."

The company relied on advertising revenues, but generated insufficient profit to weather the present recession.

Ruckus' demise was met with mixed feelings from the student body. While there have been more than 6,700 subscribers and 4 million downloads on campus since the fall 2006 semester, students have also complained about the service's drawbacks.

Those who owned Macs were unable to use Ruckus. Additionally, due to digital rights management (DRM) encoding, downloaded files

could not be played in any other media player or device.

Many students said that they illegally stripped the DRM from the files in order to use the music in their preferred music player, thereby defeating the service's purpose of providing legal downloads. One student said that he stopped using Ruckus altogether when a Windows update prevented him from removing the DRM using the popular utility fairuse4WM.

"I didn't want to use Ruckus because I couldn't actually have the files," said the student, who preferred not to give his name because the act was illegal.

Nelson said that despite the potential for misuse of this or any download system, the University will provide students with the opportunity to access music legally.

"With any technology, there are people that are going to learn how to circumvent that technology," Nelson said. "I think the University's priority is to give students a legal way to download music that's free and convenient."

Students noted that the Ruckus library, while extensive, was often inconsistent in the downloads it offered.

"Their library was so weird," junior David Rheinstrom said. "They'd have like the entire discography of Elvis Costello's nephew, but they wouldn't have Elvis Costello himself."

While some students had ideas for alternatives, no perfect solutions have come to the fore. Junior David Brunell-Brutman suggested a streaming service, although similar programs are already available for free. Brunell-Brutman also noted that the University could pay for a limited number of downloads per student.

The first priority, according to junior Ben Madej, should be affordability.

"Don't waste our tuition," Madej said.

Students who wish to participate in the decision process may apply for the new Student Technology Advisory Committee in about two weeks. The group will also discuss improving campus e-mail—potentially by outsourcing to Gmail—and creating a student portal. The committee will include a formal process for input from nonmembers.

Students may also contact Student Union at administration@su.wustl.edu.

Exec. Committee restructuring passes Treasury and Senate

Senate and Treasury approve proposal with almost unanimous vote

Alan Liu
Staff Reporter

Two years after first discussing the Executive Committee Restructuring proposal, Student Union has passed the proposal to provide better funding and organization for student groups.

In order for the proposal to be enacted, students will have to approve it during Student Union (SU) elections on March 4 and 5.

The proposal aimed to eliminate the "executive committee" designation granted to 11 Washington University student groups—WUTV, KWUR, Hatchet, Filmboard, Team 31, Gargoyle Committee, Campus Programming Council (CPC), Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), Mr. Wash. U., Sports Club Federation and Connect 4.

These executive committees were created because they programmed events that required bloc funding or were special projects of executives, among other reasons.

"There is no documentation about how executive committees came to

exist or what their purpose was," Vice President of Administration Jeff Nelson said last fall.

In place of the executive committees, the restructuring proposal defined some of the groups as "non-category student groups" while others will become Category I groups. These rules would apply not only to these current executive committees but also to Student Union groups as a whole. The proposal also dictates how all student groups will interact and operate.

The Executive Committee Restructuring proposal centered around three topics: the Sports Club Board, the Equipment Committee and the Social Programming Board. The Sports Club Board is a new incarnation of the Sports Club Federation. The chair of this board, nominated by representatives of member clubs, will be known as the Director of Sport Clubs and will become an officer of the executive branch.

The Equipment Committee will seek to manage equipment purchased with Student Union funds and will

See EXEC., page 8

The opposition

Some executive committee groups opposed the proposal during its formulation. Here are their concerns:

Mr. Wash. U.

Members of the Mr. Wash. U. Executive Committee expressed concern over SU's communication with the group regarding the restructuring proposal. Executive Committee members stated that SU had failed to include the group in the proposal's development, and that this exclusion had resulted in Mr. Wash. U. being ignored in the proposal itself. Representatives of SU responded to the Mr. Wash. U. Executive Committee by saying that it had been sending e-mails to the group's president and could produce those e-mails if necessary. Mr. Wash. U. responded by saying that there was probably a miscommunication on their end.

KWUR and WUTV

A principal concern that KWUR and WUTV had put forward was the opinion that SU had not been respectful of equipment-dependent student organizations—including KWUR and WUTV—during development of the restructuring proposal. KWUR proposed back in December that SU include KWUR and WUTV in the SU constitution, give each of the groups one budget and provide a minimal emergency appeals account. SU responded by saying that writing the groups into the constitution would prevent the groups from ever being able to separate from SU, and also claimed that a change in budgeting would be difficult given the yearly changeover of students managing programming in KWUR and WUTV.

SU elections move up three weeks, include nominations

At least one slate enters race

Ben Sales
Senior News Editor

In an effort to make its election process more transparent and to lengthen the transition time for next year's executives, Student Union has moved its election dates to March 4 and 5.

Last year's elections were held on March 26 and 27.

The current Student Union (SU) executives reached the decision to move elections forward in an effort to allow their successors more time to

adjust before moving into a full year of representing the student body. New executives will be inaugurated on March 31.

"We wanted to make sure that the new representatives had enough time to be able to get started and actually be comfortable in the position," said SU President Brittany Perez. "They can actually work through summer and when they come back from summer be moving already."

Last year, the new SU executives faced a crisis as the SU senate rejected the budget for the coming year. Perez said that SU has made the elections earlier in order to avoid a similar situation in the future.

"Having people elected on March 4 and 5 will give them time to work

with [SU Vice President for Finance] Yewande [Alimi] and work with the rest of us, so they understand how the general budget is formed," Perez said. "It's in their hands to set the general budget, and it's better that they know what they're doing."

In addition to the date change, this year marks the first time that students may nominate candidates for a position in SU. Before this year, the only way to begin the candidacy process was for potential candidates to submit election packets.

In past years, SU executives would ask people they knew to apply for positions, a system that Perez said worked, but that could be expanded to the rest



COURTESY OF JEFF NELSON

Jeff Nelson has announced that he will run for Student Union President.

See ELECTIONS, page 8

WU considers purchasing Clayton properties

Eliza Adelson
Staff Reporter

Residents of the South 40 may no longer see children walking to school on Wydown Boulevard.

Last year, the Clayton school district board approached Washington University about the opportunity to purchase Wydown Middle School, the Maryland School and the Bracken Building.

The University is now considering the offer to purchase these buildings, and in exchange, Clayton would receive the former Christian Brothers College High School property that the University owns, in addition to a substantial financial compensation.

The Clayton district no longer uses the Maryland School and the Bracken Building.

Discussions about the proposed deal between Clayton and the Uni-

versity will not occur until April of next year, but the potential purchase has generated heated discussion.

According to Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration Hank Webber, the school district believed that a new school building would meet the needs of their students better than a renovated Wydown Middle School would.

"There are very few large parcels available in Clayton," Webber said.

The Clayton school board is also aware of the controversy that the offer raises.

"We've heard from people who have been very upset and very hesitant about what it might mean, and from those who are supportive," said Chris Tennill, director of communications for the Clayton school board. "With both sides of the coin out there it really underscores the importance to take some time to listen to the community and make the best decision for those involved."

Both the University and the



DANIEL SUN | STUDENT LIFE

WU may take ownership of Wydown MS school district are planning to engage the Clayton community in this decision. This April there will be an

See CLAYTON, page 3

University enacts new retake policy

Brittany Farb
Staff Reporter

From now on, students in the College of Arts & Sciences wishing to retake a course will have additional hurdles to overcome this semester.

The final decision on whether a student can retake a course now belongs to the department offering the course.

According to an e-mail from the College of Arts & Sciences, "the student must pick up a Retake Form in the College Office, obtain the first instructor's signature, follow the instructions on the form and file the form before retaking the course."

When senior Jim Wolfe read the e-mail, he became frustrated.

"I first thought to myself, if Wash. U.'s aim is to make its students' lives more difficult for their own fantasies of endless paper-

work to show off their authority, then they have succeeded admirably," Wolfe said.

After rethinking the policy change, Wolfe became more understanding, but he still remains skeptical about the change.

"After a while, I realized there was a valid case to be made on behalf of this policy change," Wolfe said. "But the lack of explanation in the e-mail still makes me wonder about the official justification. Is creating potential barriers for those students who want to take advantage of the retake option really the best way to serve everyone's needs?"

If permission is granted to the student to retake a course, a permanent "R" will appear next to the grade earned in the retaken class.

The new policy says, "Both registrations will show on the transcript. The symbol R will appear next to the grade, not over the grade, for the first enrollment,

but only the grade and units of the second enrollment will be used to calculate the GPA."

"The [main] difference between the new policy and the old one is that the first grade remains visible," said Warren Davis, assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences. "Arts & Sciences has for many years been the only [University] undergraduate school that did not show the first grade."

According to Davis, several factors went into the decision.

"Bringing [The College of Arts & Sciences] in line with other [University] schools and providing graduate schools with missing information were two of the inspirations behind the change," Davis said. "Medical schools and other professional [programs] typically ask to see the first grade [and] Student Records was having to receive the replaced grades."

See RETAKE, page 3

READ ALL OVER

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Sunday 15

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eventcalendar

FRIDAY 13

The Great Debate featuring Ron Jeremy & Pastor Craig Gross
Graham Chapel, 6 p.m., Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry in the United States alone, but serious discussion of the issue is rare. Is it degrading to women, or empowering? Is it an addictive and destructive habit, or a window to a fun fantasy world? In this intelligent and multifaceted debate, all aspects of the pornography issue are discussed and examined. Free tickets are available at the Edison Box Office.

Performing Arts Department's Production of "Hamlet"
Edison Theatre, 8 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14, 2 p.m. on Feb. 15.
The production, set in the present day, features a modern interpretation of the Shakespearean tale.

Fair Trade Valentine's Day Gift Sale
Danforth University Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
A vast selection of fair trade gifts are available to buy for Valentine's Day. These gifts come from around the world.

SATURDAY 14

"Science and Society"
Goldfarb Auditorium, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Barbara Schaal will lecture on science and society. Schaal is the Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts & Sciences, and a professor of biology and genetics. Schaal is the former president of the Botanical Society of America and president of the Society for the Study of Evolution.

newsbriefs

International

Researches find resistant element to disease

Rice Tungro disease, a significant threat to rice production in Asia, is primarily caused by rice tungro bacilliform virus (RTVB). Building on previous research in the field, two researchers have identified two rice proteins that, when over-expressed in rice plants, help the plants develop resistance to RTVB infection. The results from the research of Washington University Professor of Biology Roger N. Beachy and researcher Shunhong Dai of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis were published in the Dec. 22 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The proteins, named RF2a and RF2b, act as transcription factors that are involved in regulating defense mechanisms. On average, Rice Tungro diseases causes an annual loss of \$1.5 billion in south and southeast Asia. (Kat Zhao)

Dog awarded for bravery with medal

George, a Jack Russell Terrier from New Zealand, was recognized for bravery by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA). George died recently because of complications arising from his actions in 2007. The terrier fought off two pit bulls who tried to attack five children. George was 14 at the time of the incident and the first dog to receive the honor. The dog's owner, Alan Gay, stood in as a proxy to receive the award which was presented by New Zealand's Governor-General Anand Satyanand. The award is the equivalent of the commonwealth's highest human honor. Gay accepted the award with words of praise for his pet. "He was a brilliant little dog, intelligent. You couldn't insult him. I'd call him 'dipstick' and he wouldn't have anything to do with me," he told TVNZ. (Michelle Merlin)

International

Olympic Committee set to choose 2016 location

The International Olympic Committee is making its decision for the location of the 2016 Olympics in October. Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo are the finalists. The games before the 2016 ones will have been in Europe, Asia and Australia, so some believe that Chicago will have an advantage. Although the 2012 and 2014 games will be in Europe, making it seem like Madrid would have a disadvantage, the city has never hosted the games before. If Rio were chosen, that would fulfill having the games on a different continent. Rio held the Pan-American Games in 2007. Tokyo also hosted the 2002 World Cup, giving it experience; however, since Beijing hosted the 2008 games, it is unlikely that two Olympic Games will be held in Asia in such a short time. (Lauren Olens)

Beijing Fireworks Burn Building

An illegal fireworks display in Beijing burned a large building, containing the headquarters for China's Central Television (CCTV), a hotel, and a cultural center. In China, to burn fireworks of that magnitude, permission must be obtained, however, this never occurred. Also, CCTV staff caused the fire. Twelve people have been detained for their relation to the fire. One fireman died and six others were injured trying to stop the fire. (Lauren Olens)

policebeat

LARCENY—Feb. 10, 2009, 10:03 a.m.
Location: PARKING LOT No. 2
Summary: Complainant reported the front license tab stolen between Feb. 6 and Feb. 7.
Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—Feb. 10, 2009, 8:10 a.m.
Location: SHEPLEY DRIVE
Summary: Running jacket and ID card left unattended was reported as stolen. TOC Feb. 9 between 7 and 8 a.m.
Disposition: Pending.

AUTO ACCIDENT—Feb. 10, 2009, 5:56 p.m.
Location: Lot No. 4
Summary: Bicyclist struck near Lot No. 4, Hoyt at Forest Parkway.
Disposition: Cleared.


quoteoftheday

"Last year we might have won, but people didn't continue to pay attention because well, 'You were going to win anyway.'"

SU VP of Administration Jeff Nelson, on the reaction to his slate's victory in SU elections last year

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Wednesday's article "Men set to defend title after winning run," reported that Charlie Cutler and Chris Hoeland won the ITA Small College Championships doubles title when they in fact won the consolation final to place third.

Wednesday's article "Missouri receives disaster relief" stated that the federal government refused Gov. Nixon's request for more relief, when in fact that request was granted.

Student Life regrets the errors.

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Raas dance team places third in nation in competition

Chloe Rosenberg
Staff Reporter

Although Ashoka's Diwali Cultural performance is over, the show's Raas dance team has continued to rehearse and perform.

The months of work team members contributed to the dance culminated in a third-place finish this past Saturday at the Dandia Dhamaka Raas competition.

Dandia Dhamaka was one of the first national Raas competitions. There are now almost 10.

Raas is a traditional Indian folk dance associated with India's Gujarat state. Of the 30 teams that applied to compete in the event, 10 teams, including the University's, were chosen to compete.

The team was composed of 16 dancers, including three choreographers. The choreographers, senior Madhvi Shah, senior Kushal Patel and junior Naitik Bhatt, have all participated in the competition in previous years.

The University's team has placed in seven of the nine years that the Dandia Dhamaka competition has existed. After learning it was in the top 10, the team wanted to compete soon before the big competition but could not due to lack of funding.

"It kind of sucks that we could not work anything out," said Patel, a senior, "but it is not that they [Student Union] don't value us." Student Union approved funding for the team to travel to New York for the Rockefeller Raas competition, but the team has since decided not to attend.

The dancers who participated in Diwali were given first preference when the competitive team was

formed.

According to the choreographers, most of the team members graduated two years ago. The team had to be rebuilt with new dancers for the previous competitive season. The team had a difficult time recovering from the dancer turnover.

"We had a two-year drought in terms of placing," said Shah, a senior. The team did not place in the past two years of the competition. In the months leading up to Diwali, the team rehearsed for several hours four times a week. There were no practices in December or between semesters. For the three weeks after winter break before the competition, the team rehearsed its seven-minute dance seven days a week.

The team became very close after spending so much time together.

"We are kind of like a family," Patel said.

Students participate in the dance as a cultural activity. "It gives an opportunity to Indians who have never been in touch with the culture before," Patel said. According to Bhatt, prospective University students around the country know about the Raas team and it attracts students to the school. "Not only do we spread Wash. U.'s name. It gives Wash. U. a culturally-diverse image," Bhatt said.

For the Dandia Dhamaka Competition, at least 80 percent of team members must be undergraduates. This year a recent Washington University graduate was a dancer on the team.

"Alums will always stay connected with the team," Bhatt said. Graduates often come back to coach the team and cheer them on at competition. Shah and Patel,



EVAN WISKUP | STUDENT LIFE

Wash. U.'s Raas dance team, which performs during Diwali in November, placed third over the weekend against other teams at the Dandia Dhamaka Raas competition.

who will be graduating this May, plan to attend Dandia Dhamaka next winter. The choreographers expect the University's team to be a continuing presence in the world of

competitive Raas.

"We are definitely in the top three competitive teams in the United States," Shah said.

RETAKE from page 1

In addition, Davis said that the former system could have caused graduate programs to interpret certain grades on students' transcripts as failing grades. With the new notation, Davis says, schools will have a better understanding as to what the "R" signifies.

"The new policy just adds more transparency to the transcript," Davis said. "Now, instead of interpreting the 'R' as a failing grade, the transcript reviewer sees all grades. Nothing is hidden."

CLAYTON from page 1

evaluative process in which parents, school staff and patrons can provide input and feedback for both organizations.

In the past, the University has worked with Wydown Middle School. For instance, the University Campus YMCA offers a program in which University students serve as mentors for middle school students from Clayton.

The former Christian Brothers College High School property, which the Clayton school district would acquire in exchange for Wydown Middle School, is about 8.4 acres; Wydown Middle School is about 4.7 acres.

"The University is not in a position to give up an 8-acre site without being able to utilize some other properties," Webber said. "We clearly look at the value to the University of the various real estate parcels available. We also look at the long-term value to the University, and that includes what we might be able to build over the long term."

The University has not yet determined how Wydown and the other properties will be used. There have been a variety of proposals on what is to happen on these sites, many of which will be determined by public forums.

A larger financial decision was to purchase the former Christian Brothers College High School, worth approximately \$22 million in 2001.

Neighbors of the school are concerned about the purchase. "There are inevitably moments of tension but there are also opportunities for wins here are that considerable," Webber said.

In difficult economic times

STUDENT LIFE

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WU student studies community development around the world

Lauren Olens
Staff Reporter

Washington University junior Nicolas Goldstein, a pre-med student with an urban studies major, is learning about his discipline firsthand across the world.

Goldstein spent his first semester in Washington, D.C., and is currently in Oxford, England. Both of these semesters will earn him University credit.

In Washington, he interned at the Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, a non-profit organization whose goal is to end health differences due to race and ethnicity. Besides the internship, Goldstein also took classes at Georgetown University.

"D.C. was a taxing experience with the juggling between work and school, but I found it to also be very, very rewarding," Goldstein said. "As I try to figure out how I want to balancing being a practicing doctor with academic work, this is all very informative."

Goldstein enjoyed being in the city because of the political atmosphere of the region.

"Life in D.C. was amazing, especially because the election was in full swing," Goldstein said. "Current events played a major role in shaping discussion."

His time in Washington also helped him learn more about many of his interests.

"The semester in D.C. really helped me gain experience about policy-making and all of the people who try their best to influence it," Goldstein said.

Goldstein learned so much at his internship that when he returned, he was able to write a chapter for a book about a poor community in Washington. The chapter is a part of an independent study course that Goldstein is taking at the University with his major adviser, Carol Camp Yeakey, who is the founding director of the Center on Urban Research and Public Policy.

"It was a lot of work but very interesting and an amazing opportunity," Goldstein said.

Now at Oxford University, Goldstein is studying public health and the sociology of industrial societies.

"It is very interesting to learn about public health in the U.K. with the national health service while we have all these debates about health care in the U.S.," Goldstein said.

Both of these programs will supplement Goldstein's work in

both urban health and medicine. He is concentrating on urban health issues.

"I am interested in urban health issues specifically and living in a city brings a whole bunch of public health issues up," Goldstein said.

He said the urban studies major at the University has accommodated him and has allowed him to pursue these opportunities abroad.

"It is an interdisciplinary major and draws from everywhere. That really allows you to take the major where you want to take it," Goldstein said.

Yeakey also emphasized the multifaceted qualities of the major.

"While urban studies is an interdisciplinary curriculum, it's a stand-alone major, but combined with the other majors it simply

enriches intellectually whatever other subjects that students go into," Yeakey said. "Because of his interest in caring for the poor, the needy and poor children in particular, urban studies is a natural fit and a natural companion to his pre-med interest."

After graduating, Goldstein hopes to complete an M.D.-Ph.D. program.

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In your dreams

The reality of female sleep orgasms

Anna Sobotka
Staff Columnist

Have you ever woken up and wondered, "Did that really just happen?"

For literally hundreds of years it was generally accepted that having orgasms during sleep was a physiological occurrence reserved just for men. The experience, scientifically called "nocturnal emissions," was colloquially dubbed "wet dreams"—a term that has obviously stuck around.

It wasn't until 1953, when the famous sexologist Alfred Kinsey published a study on the occurrence of sleep orgasms for women, that "nocturnal emissions" stopped being an appropriate term, both because females don't "emit" anything, and also because, as college students know, sleeping certainly doesn't have to happen at night (regardless of this, the term "nocturnal orgasms" is still widely used).

Since Kinsey's study, there have been only a few researchers to look at female sleep orgasms. In fact, the general knowledge of this phenomenon has remained so well hidden that when Barbara Wells published her study "Predictors of Female Nocturnal Orgasms: A Multivariate Analysis" in 1986, only 35 percent of her female college student sample had ever heard of nocturnal orgasms.

Until about a week ago, I was as clueless about the universality of this phenomenon as the other 65 percent. During a discussion

with a friend, we stumbled onto this taboo topic, and I have been fascinated by it ever since. Turns out, a lot of women orgasm in their sleep. Kinsey's study of 5,628 women found that 37 percent of women had experienced an orgasm during sleep before the age of 45 with an average of three to four per year. You can imagine how elated I was to read that he also found that the incidence increases with age (something to look forward to, ladies). Unfortunately, the more recent study by Wells refutes or complicates a lot of his other conclusions. In fact, the differences in the results between the two studies leave very little clear about female sleep orgasms other than the fact that a good number of women have them, and that they are not, as Kinsey asserted, closely tied to past sexual experience or current sexual activity.

What fascinates me is that our bodies are capable of having purely physical responses to completely mental stimuli. Without trying or having conscious desires, our bodies can create psychological situations powerful enough to ignite something as tricky and stubborn as a female orgasm. Furthermore, women have been shown to reach orgasm significantly faster in their sleep than when they are awake.

For me, this boils down to one really simple but surprising idea: orgasms are a lot more of a mind matter than we think. Obviously, I'm not saying that it's all mental (can we even imagine a world where it is?), but it seems that mental roadblocks or unbuilt bridges must play a large role.

If only it were easier to build those bridges.

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

Don't hold a grudge against Drudge

Brian Price
Staff Columnist

Perhaps you haven't heard, but in Washington, President Obama urged Congress to pass his stimulus bill, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized with pancreatic cancer. In sports and entertainment, Michael Phelps lost his sponsorship with Kellogg's after being photographed smoking cannabis, while Etta James threatened to beat up Beyoncé after the latter performed "At Last" at a presidential inauguration ball. The economy is, well...still tanking. Oh, and a man in Florida was arrested after being caught fondling a couple of blow-up dolls in a supermarket parking lot.

These are just a few of the multitude of diverse stories accessible through the Drudge Report, a news aggregation Web site owned and operated by one of the media's most likable villains, Matt Drudge. He's a former 7-Eleven employee (a job for

which he says he was well-qualified, having graduated 341st out of 355 in his high school class) who was at one point arrested for making prank phone calls and eventually sent to a psychiatric institution. Isn't it rather ironic, then, that this son of Jewish liberal Democrats has gone on to become one of the most powerful forces for conservatism in America today?

For Drudge, there's no trade-off between quality and quantity. As for what's on the page, well, the answer is everything. Just look in the left and middle columns, after the actual stories, and you'll see what's got to be at least 200 potential contributors to the Drudge Report, sources representing both the news we need to hear (such as the Associated Press and Reuters) and the news we like to hear (like the Smoking Gun). From the plethora of options available, Drudge carefully (at least it seems) selects between about 25 and 50 and posts the links. There's always an eclectic

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YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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

Letters to the Editor
One Brookings Drive #1039
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

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

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

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Student body benefits from challenged elections

Student Union election packets are out and it's time to think seriously about picking one up and running for office. This past year has been a great one for the student organizations and the University, but it has not been without its share of conflicts. From last year's budgeting process to this year's restructuring of executive committees, many students have expressed supporting and negative opinions about the direction in which Student Union (SU) is taking the University. In order for the student body to move forward in a way that serves everyone's need best, it's important that individuals challenge next year's candidates with their own opposing ideas and visions for the University.

Last year, many of the executive positions were unchallenged and candidates did not have the need to clarify their visions or receive feedback on their opinions from the student body

at large. Challenged elections give students a greater chance to interact with the candidates and share ideas.

Additionally, many of the SU members who have run for executive positions in recent years have spent years working for SU in other positions. This means that throughout their college experience they have primarily been exposed to one body, which tends to breed similar large-level philosophies about the role of SU within the student body.

While outsiders have challenged these philosophies at times, this challenge has not come in the context of an election where the broader student body had a chance to voice its opinion. We need to see different philosophies debated and articulated in order to create the best system of government at Wash. U. At the very least, members of student groups unhappy with the current SU vision should run for executive office. Ideally, students with

many different experiences and backgrounds will run.

A challenged election also opens up new possibilities for interaction with the student body. At many other universities as part of student body government elections, slates running for office engage in a series of debates hosted by different student groups who are concerned with different issues. Washington University could benefit by having a few town-hall style debates that focus on issues relevant to different University constituencies.

If different University constituencies including RAs, cultural groups, executive groups or groups that receive bloc funding hosted a few sessions in which members asked candidates questions, it would force the SU candidates to expand their focus to improve programming important to different groups and would force the candidates to answer difficult questions about their funding priorities as they relate

to different group interests. This would also give SU candidates the chance to get their message across to more students without relying on candidate statements, University media groups or brief meet and greets, which are all highly imperfect methods of communicating.

Challenged elections bring the possibility of a student government that truly has the opportunity to test its ideas and incorporate ideas of others. They bring the possibility of a student government that has the chance to be truly interactive and responsive to the student body. This cannot be done without the active involvement and judgments of students, and this rarely occurs unless students feel they have a real choice between competing visions. So help our student body take a step forward and make this an election that generates ideas and challenges our student leaders—run for SU.

IAN ROSS EDITORIAL CARTOON



Evolution of the female sexual mentality

Yannic Dosenbach
Op-Ed Submission

An online comment on AJ Sundar's article "A politically incorrect truth" (*Student Life*, Feb. 4) objected that Sundar's reasoning was really nothing more than a gossip column dressed in philosophical stealth gear. And that person has certainly a valid point: Whenever we enter the male-female discussion (sex, not gender) everyone has an opinion, and most of them are rubbish. Just recently, the idea that women talk more than men was scientifically

disproved. Scientific data on this subject is not exactly abundant, so we have let ourselves be guided by our intuitions. Fortunately, twitching on our intuitions and belief systems is a philosopher's bread and butter. Sundar's "naked woman" thought experiment is the perfect example. I think everyone would agree that a guy is much more likely to have sex with someone than a girl is when someone genuinely offers it. Now, the author offers exceptions. For example, guys who are in relationships are less likely to agree to such an offer. But I think the same can be argued for women in relationships. For this matter, let

me declare "being in love" to be another state of mind that serves a different biological purpose.

“Women worry about quality and men about quantity.”

The average pregnancy lasts about nine months and is only repeatable a limited number of

times. In order to ensure that their offspring will play the game of evolution successfully, women need to select the best possible mate. For men it is more of a numbers game. They have an almost unlimited supply of semen and accordingly they will want to distribute as much DNA as possible. Women worry about quality and men about quantity.

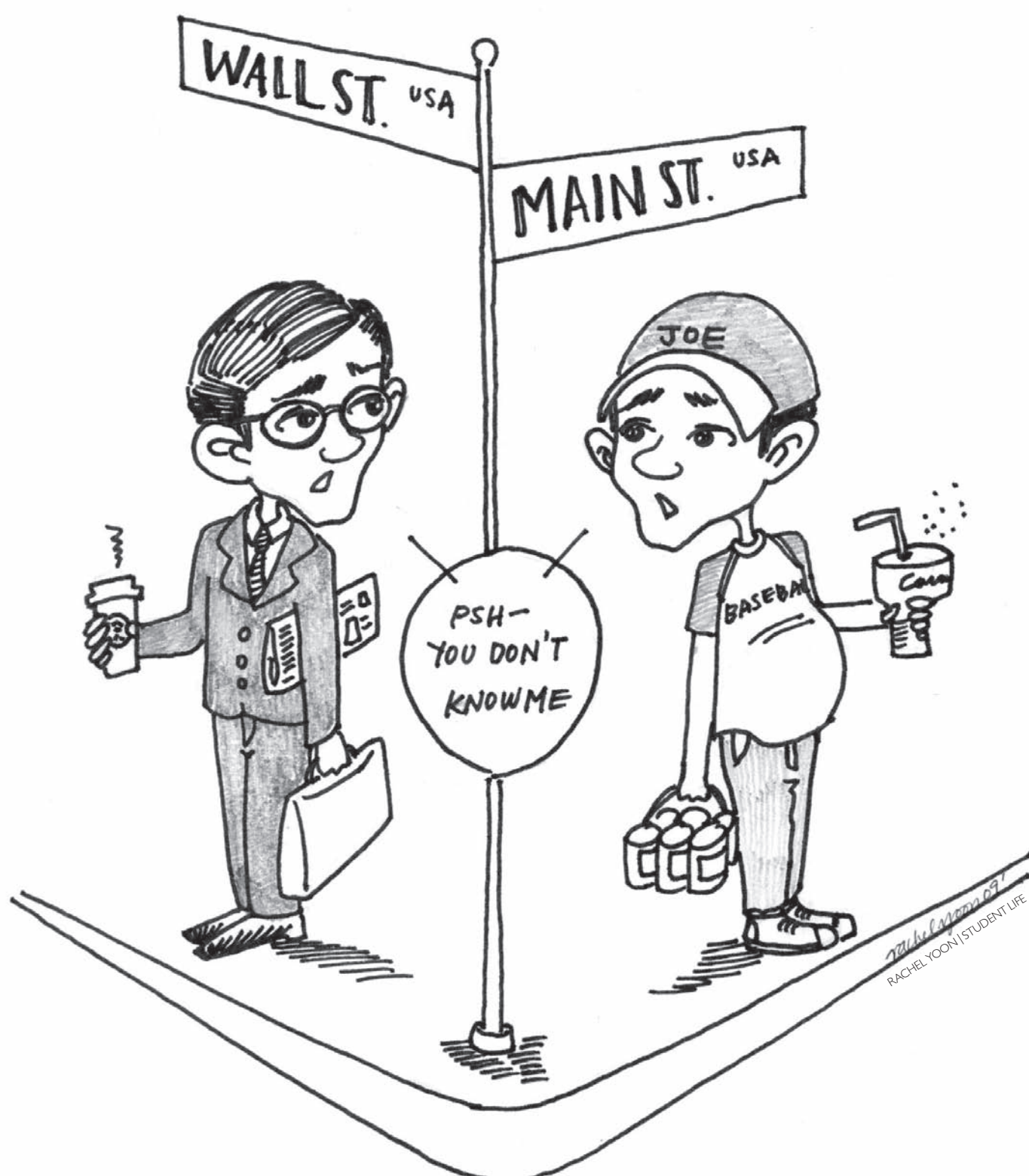
Of course, modern society has changed the circumstances. Thanks to modern methods of contraception, women have more control over their bodies. Having sex once does not necessarily

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OUR WEB POLICY

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

Why do we do this? Because Google and other search engines cache our Web site on a regular basis. Our thought is this: once an article has been published online, it's too late to take back. It is irrevocably part of the public sphere. As such, removing an article from our site would serve no purpose.



Dinner-table economy

Kate Gaertner
Staff Columnist

My parents really, really like to talk about the economy. In fact, it's probably the current issue that they're most long-winded about: the downturn, the bailout, the loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector, the stimulus. They're representative of a larger trend: It seems that everyone really, really likes to talk about the economy lately, and everyone has an opinion. The dialogue has come to a point where abject terms are being thrown about: responsibility, greed, corruption, intervention and my favorite: Wall Street versus Main Street.

The question I have for my parents, and for everyone, is this: how much do we, on Main Street, know about Wall Street? For that matter, what right do we have to

our opinions on how Wall Street saves itself?

It's natural to care about something when it affects you directly. If you're about to lose your job, you find something to get angry at. In this case, our favorite scapegoats are often greedy bank executives and the subprime mortgages they offered. Sometimes our favorite scapegoat is government, and it's easy to become angry at the prospect of a stimulus when the government is taking your hard-earned money to put into programs that you couldn't care less about. But in any case, individual perceptions of a larger market situation are, quite frequently, dependent on individual situations. For the most part, we hold the opinions we hold about economic policy with an ineradicable bias that stems from our own places in society.

Why is this? Well, for one, it's not even rational for us to know anything about current macroeco-

nom policy. Why spend time learning about what the actions of the Federal Reserve have to do with anything when we could devote that time to improving our own situations? Why care when it's admittedly not all that interesting? We can't blame people for having strong opinions about the economy, because they're all affected by it. Nor can we blame people for not knowing every side of the stimulus issue, because their time is simply not worth the cost of educating themselves when they have no say in what the Fed or Congress do.

But it makes me question the whole discussion when I see the opinions in Congress begin to resemble the opinions of my parents. How many congressmen and women have a real understanding of what kind of stimulus package would work? In the end, a well-informed economic opinion—without a significant amount of education—comes down to which

policy czar you choose to follow. And this, in itself, is a choice that is often made arbitrarily, because let's admit it: economics isn't all that interesting for most, and it's pretty complicated.

We elect people to represent us in government because we believe them to be the most skilled rulers, better at judging what's best for our society than we are, or aligning their opinions about what's best for society with our own. When we look for a representative, we don't look for an economist. Right now, it seems as though policy is getting thrown off by politics, and I cannot help but think that Congress right now, like my parents' dinner table, is just another gathering of non-experts with strong opinions.

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mix of subjects, and thus a salient story no matter what you're after. What makes the Drudge Report truly different, though, are the headlines. With the (supposedly) unbiased CNN or The New York Times, you're likely to have a pretty good idea of what you'll

“For Drudge, there's no trade-off between quality and quantity. As for what's on the page, well, the answer is everything.”

get if you click on the link, but good old Mr. Drudge doesn't care what you think—as long as you read what he's got to say. My personal favorite from the past year would have to be George Stephanopoulos' report about Joe Biden discussing the dire situation with the economy (“Biden: U.S. Economy in Danger of ‘Absolutely Tanking’”).

Drudge kept the headline for sure, only he decided to add one little word to the beginning (hint: think miserly Charles Dickens' characters), so as to elucidate his personal views on the then vice president-elect. It was certainly funny, but what's more important is that it enticed me to read the actual article.

Of course, Drudge's style isn't for everyone. To Keith Olbermann he's “an idiot with a modicum,” and Newsweek writer and Washington University graduate Michael Isikoff (whose story revealing the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal launched the Drudge Report to national prominence) called Drudge “a menace to honest, responsible journalism.” There have been occasions on which he's erred—mainly stories that turned out to be hoaxes—but on the whole Drudge has had many more hits than he has had misses. So if you're tired of all the “conventional” news sites or just have some time to kill, check out the Drudge Report. You won't regret it.

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DOSENBACH from page 4

mean that you have to care for another human being for the next 18 years (oftentimes without any help from the person who is at least 50 percent responsible). But statistically speaking, it's much more efficient for a man to produce as many children as possible with different women than to stay with one and to make sure that one child is well-off.

Numbers are not everything, however. The biological process of falling in love with someone you find exceptionally amazing seems to be another counterbalance. Love encourages women to give up their more conservative and careful sexual behavior for that special someone, while it prompts men to be more caring and altruistic for a particular person.

So should we officially declare female sexual behavior a sort of psychological appendix? Does it still serve any purpose in the age of the Pill and the condom? If we want to pursue modern implications we cannot leave culture out of the equation. We need to move away from nature to nurture and from sex to gender.

The biological equilibrium between female monogamy and male polygamy seems quite unfair. And indeed it is. Why should men be able to jump around and have sex with whomever they want, while women have at least two decades of hard work on

their hands? An equal and just society has to design an environment in which this biological injustice is counterbalanced. One crucial step is the sexual liberation of women. All humans have a natural desire for sex, but for women it has certainly more consequences. So it is understandable why the Pill is such a great human achievement.

Still, even with those modern methods of female empowerment, we shouldn't be too quick to dismiss the old biological behavior patterns. In vast parts of the world, and even here in the United States, any kind of contraception is hard to come by, be it for ideological, social or religious reasons. What is more, women are still at a disadvantage and discriminated against. The average salary of a man is still higher than that of a woman doing the same job. And any woman who tries to fight back with a kind of male ruthlessness is still characterized as being cold, egoistic and mannish.

But in this global environment, women still have one powerful tool: the fact that maybe, just maybe men are a bit more crazy about them than they are about men.

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Rebuilding

Daniel Bilsker and
Jacob Stern
Op-Ed Submission

In 2006, Hamas won a resounding victory in the first free elections to ever be held in the Palestinian territories. Israel, the United States and the European Union have long designated Hamas a terrorist organization, and displaying a stubborn refusal to negotiate, they responded by besieging Gaza. Vital humanitarian and medical supplies, as well as goods and materials necessary for daily living, were severely restricted, turning Gaza into an open air prison in which miserable Palestinians struggled to survive in subhuman conditions. The strengthening of the blockade caused 95 percent of shops and businesses to close and brought the highest rate of unemployment in the world, a staggering 41 percent in June of

2008. Shortages of even the most basic goods and services such as fuel, electricity and food became scarce as Gazans became increasingly reliant on the tiny trickle of humanitarian aid allowed into the strip. Richard Falk, the U.N. humanitarian emissary to the Middle East, compared Gaza to the Warsaw Ghetto.

Violence between the two parties continued until June of 2008, when Egypt mediated a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel. The conditions of the truce stipulated that Hamas end attacks in Israel in exchange for a gradual easing of the blockade and an end to bombings within Gaza. Hamas abided by the terms of the truce, and rocket attacks into Israel were dramatically decreased, maintained only by rogue elements unconnected to Hamas. However, Gaza remained under a brutal siege. The general state of peace was ended on November 4, when Israel killed several Palestinian militants, breaking the conditions

of the truce. In response, Hamas resumed its firing of rudimentary rockets into southern Israel. After the cease-fire officially ended in December of 2008, Hamas offered to renew the truce in hope of seeing Israel actually begin to open borders and ease the embargo. Israel refused, and on December 27, Israeli Air Force planes bombed Gaza, incinerating hundreds of people. In addition to massive bombardment by land, air and sea, Israel illegally used chemical weapons in civilian areas. The results of these attacks were catastrophic. More than 1,200 Palestinians were killed (just under half of whom were women and children) and more than 4,000 were injured. Civilian infrastructure and residential areas have been turned to rubble by overwhelming Israeli violence.

Ostensibly, the goals of the operation were to stop Hamas rocket fire and destroy tunnels used for smuggling weapons (though it turns out many of these

tunnels are used to transport basic consumer goods). But these goals cannot be attained using incredibly destructive but otherwise limited military means. Hamas is too entrenched in Palestinian society to be rooted out through an assault, and any Israeli violence predictably increases Hamas' popularity. To the desperate people of Gaza, Hamas seems like the only one standing up for them, as it was elected to do. This is not to justify attacks on civilians, from which Israelis have clearly suffered—only to explain that people in desperate situations often have desperate responses. Israel has a right to security, but causing more devastation in Gaza will only radicalize or demoralize the population, most of whom are innocent victims. More likely reasons for the offensive relate to the failed war with Hezbollah in 2006 and to sabotage possible peace with Hamas, which the Israeli government continues to treat as if it had no responsibility other than

terrorism.

Recently, Hamas has shown its willingness to accept a 50-year cease-fire and a two-state solution along the 1967 borders. Hamas has thus joined the resounding calls by the great majority of the international community to have an independent Palestinian state living alongside Israel. However, a two-state solution would require that Israel abandon its attempt at annexing the West Bank, a requirement which it is unwilling to accept as demonstrated by the leading candidate for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments that he would let the settlements expand. As extrajudicial assassination, kidnapping, torture and other human rights abuses continue unabated in the occupied territories, Israel's only interest appears to be maintaining the status quo and denying Palestinians any right of self-determination. If these crimes end, Hamas is more likely to end its own misdirected resistance.

The main obstacle to peace in the region, then, is the refusal of Israel, backed crucially by the United States, to negotiate a peaceful solution to the conflict. In addition to the yearly vote at the United Nations to create a Palestinian state, a vote consistently opposed by the U.S. and Israel (the last tally was 161 in favor and 6 against, with the U.S. and Israel leading the rejectionist camp), the Arab Peace Initiative offers Israel the opportunity to normalize relations with its Arab neighbors in exchange for retreating to the 1967 borders. It is in Israel's and the world's best interests to accept this proposal while it still lasts. With every massacre, Israel further isolates itself from the world community and pushes the prospect of peace further away.

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SPORTS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Bears banking on added experience

Josh Goldman
Senior Sports Editor

The Washington University women's tennis team is poised to improve on last season's second round exit from the NCAA Championship with 11 returning athletes, including all of its starters.

"We're coming in strong. We're working a lot on match play. Hopefully our efforts will be rewarded," senior captain Ania Tchergueiko said.

Five of the six primary singles players from last year's team are now sophomores, and with senior Erin Swaller rounding out the field of starters, the team will have much more experience than last season.

Of last season's starters, sophomore Elise Sambol was named to the University Athletic Association All-Association First Team for singles while classmates Jaclyn Bild and Karina Kocemba were named to the Second Team in doubles. The team also finished third in the UAA last season.

"We have a very deep team. It could be anybody [who steps up]. We're all very close in level," Tchergueiko said.

Aside from the depth provided by the returning athletes, the team has also added two freshmen and one junior and has been training all winter for the season, paying particular attention to added fitness and doubles play.

"We're trying to work on playing more high percentage tennis... We're trying to come out stronger and quicker, and when it gets close, we're hoping that our fitness will help us stay more mentally tough," Head Coach Kelly Stahlhuth said.

Since doubles is played before singles, the team is looking to improve its doubles play, especially at first doubles, where the Bears only recorded a victory 39 percent of the time last season.

"All 13 are very strong players, and they all have set individual goals, and they're really trying to pick up their

game... We were a young team last year, and we're not quite as young this year, but I do think that we have more experience," Stahlhuth added. Due to this added experience, she expects the team at the very least to match last season's 17-6 record and hopefully improve upon it.

The No. 16 Bears played one dual match this fall, a 5-4 win against No. 19 Coe College. The teams first spring match this Sunday at No. 12 DePauw University will also provide an immediate challenge to the still-developing team.

"It's not a cakewalk. They're ranked ahead of us, so they've got the pressure on them, and I think that we're actually ready for them, which is good considering the match is so early in the season... It will tell us what we are doing right and what we need to work on in the next three weeks," Stahlhuth said.

The rest of the schedule will not get much easier for the Bears, as they will face five currently-ranked teams this season, including fall No. 1 Williams College, who the Red and Green will face along with two other ranked opponents at the Emory University Fab Five Tournament on March 27-29.

Wash. U. is also the fourth-ranked team in the fall Intercollegiate Tennis Association national rankings in the UAA. Emory currently sit at No. 4 while Carnegie Mellon University is No. 8 and the University of Chicago is No. 15. "We can't really focus on [our ranking]," sophomore Kristin Fleming said. "We just want to focus on playing well and proving that we do deserve to be ranked early on."

For now, the team is focused on this Sunday's match at DePauw and then the three-week period in between matches which will be used to train.

"We're just going to go out there this weekend and do our best... to improve our doubles play," Tchergueiko said.

With additional reporting by Johann Qua Hiansen

SPORTS FEATURE

D3hoops.com brings national flavor to game

Scott Drattell
Sports Editor

For many Washington University sports fans, the lack of visible national coverage of Division III sports can be frustrating. While Wednesday night's regular season matchup between Duke and the University of North Carolina received more attention from national media outlets than any other game that night, the Division III national championship between Wash. U. and Amherst last spring went uncovered by many, though it did air nationally on CSTV. The game did not even receive its own highlight on ESPN's Sports Center. Instead, it appeared as one of that night's Top Ten Highlights, coupled with the Division III women's championship game.

"It's embarrassing to me that ESPN did that with the national championship game," senior Adam Handler said. "I understand that D-III sports aren't going to receive the same attention as D-I, but it's upsetting to me that my friends at other schools didn't even know we won the championship."

Filling the void of national coverage for many Bears fans and fans of other Division III schools over the last several years has been D3hoops.com, part of the D3sports.com network. It is perhaps best known for its Top 25 poll, which is used by the NCAA to rank teams nationally the same way the NCAA uses the Associated Press (AP) poll to rank Division I teams. D3hoops.com began as Division III Basketball Online in January 1995 when it was started by Centennial Conference commissioner Steve Ulrich.

In November 1997, Pat Coleman, former sports information director at Catholic University, took over the site. Coleman, too, was frustrated with the lack of national coverage of Division III and saw the site as a way to give recognition to the Division III student-athletes he felt deserved it.

Coleman perhaps underestimated how many people felt the same way. He initially saw the site as a side project, but soon found there was enough interest nationwide in Division III basketball to require far more work than expected.

"I figured I would work on the site a couple of hours a night, two or three days a week," Coleman said. "Then I found out pretty quickly that there were a lot of people following Division III basketball... so it kind of went from grand plans of we'll do it maybe 8-10 hours a week into this sprawling thing that includes football, baseball, soccer, forums and a job board and takes about 40-60 hours a week of my time during the season, plus a couple of volunteers who put in 15-25 hours a week as well."

The site was renamed D3hoops.com in the summer of 1999 to coincide with Coleman's launch of a partner football site, D3football.com, and since he made a greater commitment to it, traffic has grown rapidly.

With its daily game wrap-ups, season previews, standings, national columns and awards selections, the site has become the go-to place for Division III basketball fans.

"I use D3hoops.com to keep track of how Wash. U. does in its road games, as well as to put Wash. U.'s success in per-

spective and to see how other schools do across the country," senior Mike Goldfarb said. "The great thing about D3hoops is it centralizes everything so that you can get information on records, scores and some analysis all in one place, as opposed to having to go look for it in a bunch of different sources."

D3hoops.com has also expanded in recent years to include podcasts about Division III basketball and Insider blogs written by players. For the past two years, Wash. U. senior point guard Sean Wallis has blogged for the site. Wallis believes the site's importance for Division III basketball is immeasurable.

"I don't know if you can really put into words how important the site is for Division III basketball," Wallis said. "D3hoops really allows it to be a smaller country with regards to Division III basketball, and the guys just do an incredible job running the site and make it so [Division III] has more of a big-time feel and make it a little more important on the national level."

Also immensely important for the site is the message board. But while the

message board sparks debates about who is the best D-III player of all-time and allows fans to create conference pick 'em leagues, Coleman believes it has had an unexpected impact on D-III basketball that may be even bigger than the site itself.

"The message board has really become the community of Division III," Coleman said. "In the past you have maybe two fan bases on either side of the gymnasium shouting at each other across the 50 feet of [hardwood], and they never mingle, at least not in a positive way. Now fans know each other, they've met on the message boards, they've exchanged e-mail off the board, they get together, they hang out before the game, they hang out after the game... and I think that's brought Division III fans closer together around the whole concept of Division III rather than just necessarily their teams."

For many of those fans, the next step is convincing others that that concept deserves to be recognized across the nation.



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

While D3hoops.com has its share of crazed fans, the Phi Delta Theta Bomb Squad does its best to get fans cheering loudly at all men's basketball home games.

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hotSEAMS

The stiletto's walk through history

Ginika Agbim
Scene Fashion Columnist

I like high-heeled shoes. In particular, I like ones that seem too difficult to walk in. Four inches, five inches, orange, purple, leather, suede: bring it on. Sometimes these intense heels can even be as high as eight inches. With stats like that, one can't help but wonder where the idea for these incredible shoes originated.

High heels themselves, worn by both men and women, have been around since the ancient Egyptian butchers rocked them more than 6,000 years ago. But were the semi-painful shoes with long, pointy heels worn back then too? Or were they the realization of creative artists in Europe, or maybe textile designers in Asia?

The Latinate word 'stiletto' comes from the root word stilus, meaning a pointed instrument. The original stilettoes were a type of dagger with a slender blade. In the 1930s the pointy heel was named after the stiletto dagger, but it wasn't until its mass production in 1955 that this Italian shoe gained its popularity.

Though many often credit shoe designers Roger Vivier or Manolo Blahnik with the invention of the stiletto, (these two should instead be credited with the stiletto revivals of 1950 and 1974, respectively), the late Kristin S. Wagner was the original designer of the fashionable heel, and eventually experienced the success of the stiletto.

While these seductive shoes may cause discomfort by the end of the day, they also come with many benefits. For one, stiletto heels change your posture, causing you to stand straighter and appear slimmer. By standing straighter, you lift parts of your body that should be up higher, which can help you appear more confident. Perhaps the most

obvious benefit of stilettos is that they make you look taller and your feet look smaller. Through my own experience searching for heels in a size 11, I have found that the higher the heel, the better the results.

Have you ever walked on a hill while wearing stilettos? If so, you're probably aware that the calf workout rivals that of professional athletes. Well, maybe not quite that intense, but your legs are guaranteed to look even more amazing after walking around in these shoes. Aside from the physical benefits, there are also some stylish and social benefits. Style-wise, stilettos can cause outfits to appear more feminine or edgy, depending on the detailing of the shoe and the designer. Socially, wearers of stilettos might exude sexiness or power.

Nowadays, shoe designers have gone crazy trying to produce flattering stilettos. Designers such as Christian Louboutin (an article about high heels would be incomplete without referencing this amazing designer) create sky-high shoes with amazing proportions. As mentioned earlier, stiletto heels can produce wonderful effects, many of which are found only when the shoe length to heel height ratio is exact. This can be difficult to achieve with styles such as the kitten heel, especially for those with large feet. Shoe designers take this calculation into account when producing flattering and popular stilettos.

From the Egyptian butchers to the floor in my closet (and yours), stilettos have romped around the Earth for centuries. The success of this fabulous footwear indicates that they will continue to do so for years to come.

-Stay Stylish!

Sources:
www.wikipedia.org
www.yourdictionary.com
www.blogher.com



MCT CAMPUS

Stepping Out

Blue Ocean Sushi

609 Eastgate Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-721-9168



Sophie Adelman
Scene Reporter

A word to the wise: If you love to unwillingly spend four hours at a restaurant, you're in luck. Blue Ocean Sushi is here to rescue you from anything else you might want to do on a Saturday night.

Aside from its alluring signs screaming "All You Can Eat Sushi," Blue Ocean Sushi is a small, atmospheric establishment that couldn't contrast more with the somewhat-shady characters that frequent the adjoining Club 609. The cool blue color scheme and streamlined design create a relaxed feel, while unusual pieces of art and photography keep the eye entertained.

However, art can only do so much. At some point, you'd like water. And maybe some food. This is where Blue Ocean Sushi fell woefully behind. It took at least half an hour to get drinks once we were seated; we were even served complimentary miso soup before the drinks. Miso soup may be delicious, but a thirst quencher it is not.

To stave off our hunger, the establishment kept the munchies coming. We were given hot, fresh

crab rangoon which was tasty, but light on the crab. Next, we were treated to what seemed like the exact same thing, only without the filling and sliced into strips.

Those with the all-you-can-eat deal were served their appetizers first while the rest of the party waited. Note: munching away on your edamame can put a strain on your friendship with a foodless person. For appetizers, I would highly recommend the tempura, which was light and fresh, with a healthy serving of vegetables. I devoured it in about three seconds.

Most of our party chose the larger meal option: the Level-2 for \$24.99, which offered far more variety and rolls with more than one ingredient. Level-2 proved to be a wise option, as the sushi was delicious overall, though it took at least an hour.

The salmon nigiri was lean and flavorful, while the shrimp nigiri was sweet and light. Best of all, the spicy tuna roll combined just the right amount of spice for someone who generally concocts a paste of wasabi so thick that it's practically solid. It was no surprise that I also went back for the salmon roll after such wonderful nigiri, and it also did not disap-

point. I wasn't too impressed with the albacore nigiri as it seemed gray and tasteless compared to the usual yellowfin tuna. The mackerel was greasy.

One point of contention among the diners was the cheeseburger roll, which was literally hamburger meat rolled within rice with lettuce and ketchup. This was such a random item and clearly meant for the kiddie set, yet we felt someone had to try it. Others gave it slightly positive reviews, but I ended up chickening out myself.

Another mass-ordered item was the yakisoba on the à la carte menu, which turned out not to be worth the wait. None of the traditional yakisoba flavor was there, the vegetables were scant and the addition of chicken teriyaki made a strange flavor. Most who ordered it left nearly everything on their plates.

Dessert was mochi ice cream in vanilla, green tea or mango. Mochi is a small ball of ice cream surrounded by a layer of glutinous rice paste, which has a powdery, dough-like taste. This sounds vile, but don't knock it before you try it. The rice layer is slightly sweet, but not cloying, and adds an interesting accent to your standard

fare. Just don't expect too much; servings consist of one mochi ball cut in half and I found myself asking for another.

I consider myself a pretty professional eater both in quality and quantity, but even I struggled with finishing the last morsels of my dinner. All-you-can-eat sushi is an enticing concept, especially when you feel you have to eat your money's worth at the restaurant that made you wait more than two hours for mediocre yakisoba. In the end, though, it's not all that it's cracked up to be.

Many of the problems had to do with a scant staff. There were only two servers for the entire restaurant, each covering about six tables, which isn't easy. There were also only two sushi chefs, which must have made things very difficult once orders started pouring in.

As a new restaurant, Blue Ocean Sushi clearly lacks many of the fundamentals: efficient service, an adept staff and a menu that both takes risks and excels in basic fare. However, given a few more months, they will likely adapt a new business model and adjust to demand. Until then, think twice about venturing there. Or bring your own water bottle.

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STUDENT LIFE

The art history department: your newest fan page

Ben Sales
Senior News Editor

Students already express their appreciation of different bands, organizations, causes or politicians on Facebook. Now, Washington University students can also become fans of the Department of Art History and Archaeology.

The Department created the Facebook fan page Tuesday in order to better communicate with students both within and outside of the department. While Nancy Rubin, Art History and Archaeology's administrative assistant, sends e-mails to the department's majors and minors, she said that the Facebook page will be more accessible—and more visible—to interested students.

Rubin also noted that the department—like every one at the University—has a Web site, but that students did not visit it.

"It was a matter of meeting the needs of the students in how they're used to receiving information," Rubin said. "The difference between the Web site and the Facebook is that the Web site would require them going to it where with the Facebook if they sign up to be a fan they should just get the announcements popping up."

Senior Britt Royal, an art history major, said that some of the department's students would enjoy receiving fewer e-mails.

"We had a lot of e-mails, really, frequently—more than once a week—which I didn't have a problem with, but I know some people have problems with clogged e-mails," Royal said. "This is just really streamlined and visual."

Rubin hopes that the Facebook page will make students across campus aware of the events that the department puts on, such as professors' lectures, and that it will allow fans of the page to

correspond with each other.

"Hopefully there'll be a chance for the students to interact through the link to the Facebook as well," she said. "The interaction would happen already verbally between students but this is an easier way to get the information out."

Royal said that she looks forward to finding out about the department's events without having to go to its Web site.

"I think it's a good idea," she said. "I've already been able to respond to the lectures so it will be really nice to have those events pop up on my Facebook homepage when they are coming up so I won't forget them."

Although she is attuned to student cyberculture, Rubin has yet to make Facebook a part of her social life.

"I don't have a Facebook page yet myself," she said. "This is going to cause me to get one and learn how to use it. Some [faculty] don't have pages yet."

EXEC. from page 1

allow Student Union to maintain an information database of equipment in order to make smarter decisions about equipment purchases.

The Social Programming Board is now charged to "strategically plan large-scale programs that appeal to a large portion of the student body" and to increase collaboration and communication between student groups.

Treasury passes the resolution

Instead of approving the proposal as a whole, Treasury went through every statute of the proposed bill and approved each section.

The first debate in Treasury centered on how equipment purchased partially by fundraising from student groups and partially funded by Student Union would be managed. Most of the objections came from KWUR, whose members did not feel comfortable about how the Equipment Committee was to decide who managed what equipment.

Jill Carnaghi, associate vice chancellor for students, emphasized the unified nature of Student Union.

"In my mind, it's all Student

Union," Carnaghi said at the meeting. "In the end, it really is all owned by Student Union. KWUR is Student Union."

However, KWUR did not agree with Carnaghi.

"KWUR is a part of Student Union, but it's a constituent organization. It's not synonymous with Student Union," KWUR Personnel Director Brent Rubin told *Student Life*.

"When Jill made that argument that we're all a part of SU, I was a little surprised because I think KWUR is a far more integrated body among the students, and I don't see that type of collaboration that she's talking about," KWUR General Manager Kinsley Makielski said.

The second major point of discussion for the night centered around the makeup of the Social Programming Board. CPC President Jeremy Carlson disagreed with the proposal that the vice president of programming on the Social Programming Board would appoint half of the board's representatives when it was the job of the individual groups to program. No major changes, however, were made to this section.

After the proposal was passed, Treasury held elections in order to seat the chair of the Equipment Committee. Freshman Daniel Bernard and sophomore Peter Glaser were elected as co-chairs.

"People were really respectful, and I think groups got a chance to express themselves and at times when they didn't get a chance, I went over and talked to them and we changed the meeting around to accommodate them and make additional comments," Nelson told *Student Life*.

Senate meeting

The Executive Committee Restructuring proposal faced more resistance in the Senate meeting held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 that ended a few minutes before 2 a.m. but still passed with overwhelming support.

"I felt that the meeting was good because it passed. I do think that that meeting in particular was frustrating, because they felt the senators didn't read the proposal beforehand, and we spent a lot of time going over issues that could have been resolved months ago, but I think overall, people were happy with the product that was passed," Nelson said after the meeting.

Moving forward

Now that the proposals have passed in Senate and Treasury, focus turns to how to turn these proposals into law. Foremost is the Equipment Committee's goal to catalog equipment and implement a structure before Student Union elections in a couple of weeks.

"This may seem like the long tedious piece. To me, this is the easy piece. Passing legislation is not the difficult part. The difficult part will be bringing this to life, implementing it, institutionalizing it, having it make sense, having it fulfill all expectations it was set out to, and like any good conceptual model, certain things may be tweaked," Carnaghi said.

Carnaghi was impressed that Student Union executives stayed with this project to see it through.

"It's not one person's baby. There's a whole list of people [who] saw that there are ways we could do this better so they stuck with it. All too often, as officers and leaders change, your agenda gets pushed to the side and the next one comes on, so there must be some merit for this proposal to persevere this long."

Following last year's contentious General Budget meetings, Carnaghi was also pleased with "the civility and respect of everybody in the room and the fact that people listened."

"No one individual sabotaged the democratic process. I think it was Wash. U.'s student leadership at its best. I'd like to think that it's always like that."

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ELECTIONS from page 1

of the student population. She said that though members of SU had met many student leaders, there was also a large number whom they did not know but whom they wanted to include in SU.

Students may nominate peers for the Senate, Treasury, class councils and executive council.

"What we try to do every year when someone is leaving their office is [determine] who's going to fill that space," Perez said. "We realized that there are probably a lot of people who may consider running one of these positions. This gives everybody in the school the opportunity to say, 'Well, I think my friend should really do this.'"

While SU may want to attract those who have yet to involve themselves in student government, junior Jeff Nelson, the current SU vice president of administration, has formed a slate, comprised of five candidates with SU experience, to run for the executive positions in the coming elections.

Nelson says he does not want students to see a divide between those inside SU and those outside the organization. As such, one of his goals as president will be to better integrate the student body into SU.

"For too long, people get into the position [of president] and they say, 'Okay, I'm Student Union president, so what do I do? I focus on Student Union,'" Nelson said. "I'm focused on improving the daily experience of every Wash. U. student."

While Nelson ran opposed last year, Perez ran unopposed in both of her elections for the SU executive council—for vice president in 2007 and for president last year, when four out of five positions were uncontested. Both Perez and Nelson say they prefer that as many candidates contest spots as possible.

"If you run opposed, it makes people pay attention," Nelson said. "You have the power to really make things happen on campus. When I ran opposed last year, I loved it. Last year we might have won, but people didn't continue to pay attention, because well, 'You were going to win anyway.'"

CADENZA

Top 10 kids movies inappropriate for kids

Brian Stitt
Managing Editor

Where would we be without children's movies? They provide us college students with blissful hours of nostalgia-fueled discussions about which Disney princess was hottest or which McDonalds tie-in toy we most enjoyed. Something often forgotten by people our age is the service they provide to parents; plop your kids in front of their favorite movie and that should shut them up for an hour and a half. But what about those movies that go too far—that advertise themselves as family-friendly romps or a short time of silence for weary parents but end up causing crippling emotional damage through their inappropriate themes and horrific visuals? We're not talking about Bambi's mom kicking the bucket or a couple of naughty puns that a certain green ogre shows a proclivity toward. No, this is full on night-terror-inducing, psychiatry-bill-generating fun house mirror versions of kids movies. The recent release of Neil Gaiman's "Coraline" has brought the question into the national spotlight: "When is a children's movie too scary for children?" Well, we here at Cadenza have made a list, in Top 10 form, to ease the nation's pain. Here you go, parents of America. Make sure your kids don't watch these movies.

10. Time Bandits

One of Monty Python alum cum-auteur Terry Gilliam's first movies, "Time Bandits" features the most horrific final scene in cinema, children's or otherwise. Our young hero Kevin has just returned from a fantastic, time-traveling journey to find himself in bed, his house burning down around him. The firemen bursting in to save him hardly compare with the myriad adventures he had the night before; he met Robin Hood and Napoleon, found the father figure he always longed for in Agamemnon, even encountered "The Supreme Being" in a showdown with evil, only to find it all ripped away, as if it were a dream. Turns out the fire was caused by his own dull parents who constantly ignore him. They had something in the toaster for too long. Realizing that what was in the toaster is a chunk of pure evil left over from the Supreme Being's battle, Kevin warns them not to touch it, only to be ignored once again. They disappear in a poof of smoke, and Kevin is left standing on his lawn as the firemen and police leave him all alone. For the rest of his life. When you look up "bleak" on an internet dictionary, it should show you this movie.

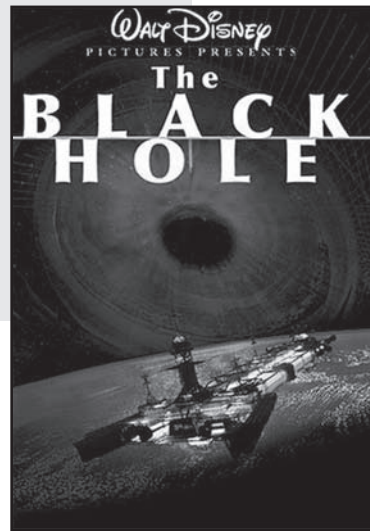
9. Coraline

The story of a monster who wants to steal our young heroine's eyes is pretty frightening. The fact that the monster disguises herself as Coraline's dream mother adds a very creepy layer. But it is Henry Selick's stop-motion animation and character design that pushes this movie into the upper echelon of creepy kids' movies. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" had a similar vibe but was jovial overall. "Coraline" resembles the stories of kids' real lives and real fantasies. Those whose parents make them vegetables and seem to be always working may trade their eyes for a chance at a mother constantly baking cakes and father quick to serenade his daughter with a song. The opening credits serve as the perfect mood setter, introducing us through a needle-handed doll maker to a world where our toys may turn against us, simply by being an extension of our dreams.



5. Black Hole

Disney's answer to "Star Wars" kind of missed the point. It retained stunning special effects and an outer space location, but replaced the fun, action-packed story with one from a ploddingly-paced psychological thriller. The crew of a spaceship encounters a missing vessel near a black hole. The ship's captain has lobotomized his mutinous crew and created robots to take their place. He plans on entering the black hole to explore what may lie beyond. Despite the first-time-for-Disney PG rating, most viewers foolishly thought that something with the Disney logo would be kid friendly, not the kind of movie where characters are eviscerated on-screen and the entire cast is sent through the black hole at the end only to encounter Heaven and Hell, and end up in a dimension in which they will never belong. It did serve as many children's introduction to the concept of "fate worse than death," so the film deserves a gold star for that.



3. The Fox and the Hound

It's not exactly a classic, but certainly "The Fox and the Hound" is one of the better remembered movies from Disney's '70s and '80s "bad years." It has some good laughs, a song or two from Pearl Bailey and a brilliantly-animated bear attack. Could there be a better way to teach kids about the evils of racism and bigotry than by abstracting it through the lens of an animal adventure? Maybe, if they had made a movie that didn't conclude that Todd and Copper could never be friends. Sure, kids, separating people based on outward appearance and outdated social norms is bad, but there is nothing we can do about it. Segregation is inevitable anyway, guys. Just let Todd go play with his forest friends, and Copper can go be the hunting dog he was born to be. You can't change who you are, and you can't make a difference in society. Deal with it.

2. The Adventures of Mark Twain

Many of you may not remember this one, but that's because everyone who saw it as a child immediately blocked it from their memories. The first full-length Claymation feature, "The Adventures of Mark Twain" is a rumination on the futility of life and the pros and cons of creating one's own destiny through suicide. But, you know, for kids. Mark Twain takes Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher on a journey to the farthest reaches of the cosmos and to the darkest depths of his own soul in search of Haley's Comet and his death. They try to talk him out of it, partly because he has so much to offer the world with his words, wit and wisdom, but mostly because he plans to crash the airship into the comet, killing them all. It's an intriguing and hypnotizing look at artistry and history that will scare the bejesus out of anyone who isn't blind and deaf.

1. Garbage Pail Kids

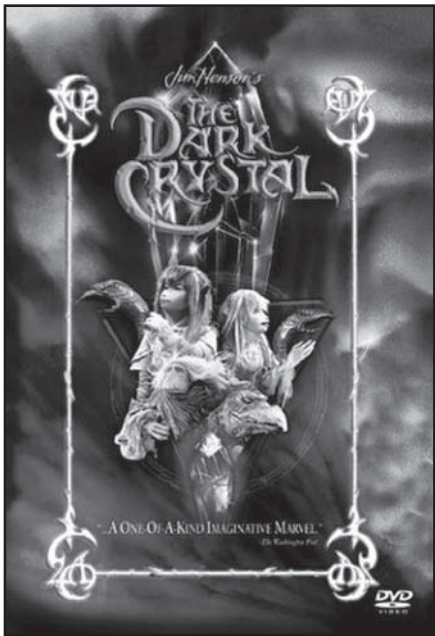
The only thing scarier than the quality of this putrid excuse for entertainment is the costumed little people masquerading as the nauseating Garbage Pail Kids. Based on an allegedly-amusing series of stickers mocking the Cabbage Patch Kids, The Garbage Pail kids are disgusting affronts to fake humanity with names like Valerie Vomit and Foul Phil. Kids are supposed to like gross things, and these things certainly are gross, but soulless round rubber faces, obnoxious voice acting and embarrassing special effects turn this film's heroes into grotesque mockeries of the the grotesque mockeries they are based on. This film left a permanent black mark on humanity and the film industry. Showing this movie to your kids may result in a boost in their personal hygiene, but it will also kill a small part of them that will never grow back. Sort of like the lobotomized automatons in "The Black Hole." Truly horrifying stuff.

4. Return to Oz

This film was presumably made as a punishment for a Disney executive's naughty child who liked to make up stories. A pseudo-sequel to the 1939 MGM classic, "Return to Oz" starts out with Auntie Em deciding that Dorothy's psychotic babbling about talking scarecrows and melting witches deserve a healthy dose of electroshock therapy. Dorothy runs away from the terrifying psychiatrist, Dr. Worely, only to find her self back in Oz facing the villainous Mombi, an evil princess who can remove her head (and yours!), plus an army of soldiers with wheels for hands and feet. Despite the fact that the entire movie is terribly grim, with all of Dorothy's friends from Oz having been turned to stone, it is those soldiers, the Wheelers, that left an indelible mark on all young viewers and fueled the nightmares of a generation.

8. Dark Crystal

Jim Henson was certainly known for blurring the line between adult's and children's entertainment, but he rarely made anything that pushed that line too far. "The Labyrinth" certainly wasn't "Sesame Street," but arguably, the scariest part about it was David Bowie's package. So "The Dark Crystal" really came out of nowhere. The scariest thing about the villains, a dying race of rotting vulture-like creatures called Skeksies, was surprisingly not their plans for world domination by genocide (you'd kill off the Gelflings too if there was a prophecy that they would bring down your reign of power). It was the constant infighting and willingness to cast off one of their own so quickly after SkekSkil lost his Trial by Stone to General SkekUng. The blackness of their hearts was especially disturbing because we saw it in ourselves, just as our good qualities were mirrored in the calm and gentle urRus, a race of hunchbacked Mystics. Okay, so the really scary thing about "The Dark Crystal" is that it has the power to turn normal kids into massive dorks. Beware the crystal's power before it's too late. I know it is for me.



7. Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

Roald Dahl was known for liking to scare little kids with his gruesome stories. Even he could never have imagined the hellish boat ride featured halfway through "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate" factory. The combination of psychedelic swirling colors, horrific images (bugs in skulls! headless chickens!) and Gene Wilder's droning, slow-building, song combine to create the scariest minute and half ever put on film. This comes after Mr. Wonka has tempted the children in his factory and the audience with his candy wonderland, only to reprimand the children when Augustus Gloop is sucked away to his possible death. This dark, frightening quality may be why we remember the movie so well as adults, but as kids the boat ride was a great time to sneak away for a bathroom break.

6. Watership Down

Kids love bunnies. It's a fact. And why wouldn't they? Bunnies are furry, cute and have improbable levels of floppiness. We are programmed from a young age, through books ordering us to pat the bunny and Christian holidays treating rabbits as bringers of sweets, to love bunny rabbits. While the book "Watership Down" featured a few more macabre details than society at large is used to associating with fluffy bunnies, certainly the animated adaptation would tone those parts down, right? Apparently the British do not share us Yanks' refusal to associate bunnies with blood-fueled rage. Monty Python's killer rabbit looks like Thumper next to "Watership Down's" warriors. Bloody battles and scarily realistic bunny deaths abound in this supposed children's movie. Millions of children never thought about Easter the same way again.

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

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 Wednesday's puzzle

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

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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 More hackneyed
7 Loopy
11 Golf org.
14 Play an improper card
15 Enthusiastic
16 Battering tool
17 Less than 100 shares of stock
18 Drastically
20 Med. scan
21 Raven's call
23 Tablelands
24 Legendary coach
27 Orion feature
30 Boyfriend
31 Scull propeller
32 Walking sticks
33 Utmost extent
35 Snort before bedtime
37 OED's category
40 "School of Athens" painter
42 Hosp. areas
43 Panhandle city
45 Actor Chaney
47 Municipal
48 Diminutive creature
50 Easy wins
54 Boy with a bow
55 Merchant's partner in films
57 Counter
59 Big time unit
60 Make free
61 Possible course of events
64 Do up
66 "Ben-__"
67 Capital of West Germany
68 Relaxing
69 Bradley and Begley
70 Cogito __ sum
71 Land

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69					70					71			

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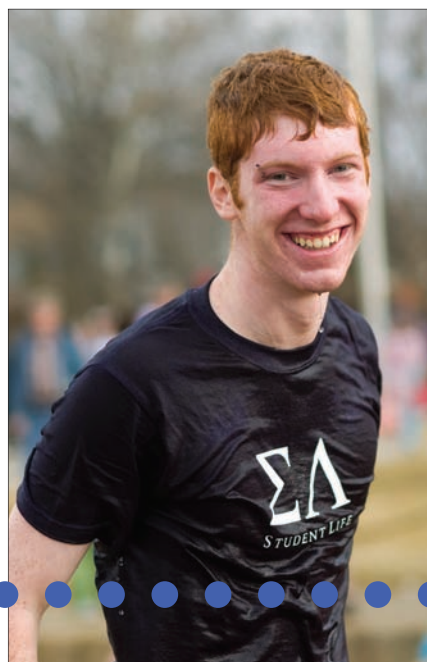
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Solutions

A	L	T	V	E	R	O	G	H	E	S	D	E		
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N	E	L	S	V	J	O	I	R	V	N	E	C	S	
D	I	R	N	O	E	L	N	B	E	R				
A	H	O	L	I	S	E	W	V	R	S	O	H	E	
S	P	W	O	R	F	F	L	C	T	L	A	I	C	
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d	v	c	l	h	g	i	n	h	l	n				
S	E	N	V	C	R	V	O	N	I	V	M	S		
L	T	L	E	B	N	V	I	H	G	E	S	R	P	
S	V	S	E	M	M	V	C	I	R	M				
A	T	E	R	E	L	A	S	L	O	T	D	D	O	
M	V	R	E	D	I	L	A	V	E	G	E	N	E	R
A	G	P	A	V	A	G	A	G	T	E	R	I	T	E

- 51 Human
52 Man with a mission?
53 Greenstreet of Hollywood
55 Peer among peers
56 Until now
58 Infant
61 Personal pronoun
62 Bovine's chew
63 Lennon's Yoko
65 Red or Yellow

- DOWN
1 Walks heavily
2 Pick again
3 Ms. Gandhi
4 Part of GTE
5 Self-absorbed
6 Change prices
7 Element classification
8 Angel Gabriel's salutation
9 Accepted as fact
10 Citrus drinks
11 Dignified bearing
12 Part of m.p.g.
13 Writer Tan
19 Moroccan capital
22 Relative pronoun
25 Sermon subject
26 Bilbo Baggins' portrayer
28 Regan's father
29 Cooking meas.
32 Disinfect, as pool water
34 Actor Linden
36 Become a jelly
37 Speed along
38 Eastern ruler
39 Ones with a bias
41 Making folds
44 Already up
46 11
49 Cost to play



Scott Fabricant MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Freezing for a good cause

The Polar Bear Plunge

Scott Fabricant
Scene Reporter

On Saturday, Feb. 7, I, along with several hundred of my closest friends, donning outrageous costumes, dove headlong into the freezing Lake St. Louis. No, we weren't crazy; we were participating in the sixth annual Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser charity event for Special Olympics Missouri.

Thirteen Plunge events are taking place in lakes and reservoirs all over Missouri (and one in Mexico) over the course of February. The Plunge at Lake St. Louis was the major event for the local metro area and thus had a massive turnout.

"Our goal this year is [to raise] \$140,000, and we have over 500 plungers participating—a record number," said Jennifer Brown, associate director of

Special Olympics Missouri.

Despite the warm weather of the day, the first thing to be seen was a group of ducks walking across the icy surface of the lake as if each one were a web-footed Jesus. Slightly larger ducks were also walking around in the reception area, as were pigs, bears, frogs, turkeys, chickens, giraffes, hippos, beetles, Beatles and KISS. People banded into teams to collectively raise money, and most teams came in themed costumes. Everyone jumped in full regalia.

"The craziest costume team I've seen is the Wicked Witch of the West and her troop of flying monkeys. That was pretty creepy,"

said event security guard Steve Whiteman.

Washington University was well represented with teams from both Sigma Chi and Phi Delta Theta fraternities, and yours truly from *Student Life*. The Washington University Police Department (WUPD) was present for its fourth year at the Plunge, with a team of five officers and dispatchers including Chief Don Strom; they were a crowd favorite as the Blue Man Group.

"There's a close relationship between the law enforcement profession and Special Olympics, and this is one of those events we take a lot of pride in and partici-

pate in," Strom said. "We're glad we got good support from our community, and we raised about \$2,000."

There were so many participants that everyone was split into "heats," or waves of runners. The mass of freezing humanity flowing into the lake lasted for more than an hour. WUPD was one of the first, but I was the very last, Heat 28. This gave me the chance to meet some other participants, both before and after their run.

"This year, it's like Florida outside, but there's still ice on the water. Can't think about that. Just gotta go, then get out. That's all there is to it," said Doug

Post, one of 18 Chiquita bananas.

Of course, that was before he jumped. The dripping and costumeless Samantha Stevens had quite different feelings as she emerged from the lake.

"It's really, really cold! I didn't know what hit me when I first ran into the water; it was disorienting," she said. "But it was awesome, and I survived. [I'm] probably doing it again next year."

I was of the same mind-set as Post. The water was still near freezing, but at least the weather was in the mid 60s.

God was smiling upon us. I know this because

he was there with his robe and staff, under the assumed name of Plunge participant and Special Olympics athlete Ron Petreaup.

"It's very fun and very exciting—gets the adrenaline flowing," Petreaup said. "Seeing people donating money and getting involved is great. [I] can't wait to do it next year."

A large number of Special Olympics athletes were jumping themselves. There was also a huge age range, from old men to teams of high school students, including a large group in old-fashioned bath wear. One heat alone included a geriatric, a marine, two attractive young ladies and three young princesses.

Before my turn to take the plunge, I watched as participants came out of the water a lot worse for the wear. The Guantanamo prisoners were waterboarded, the formerly green Hulk was Bruce Banner again and the high school kids were all washed up. Scary, sure, but it was too late to back out now.

The nine of us lined up and ran hard toward the water. As we hit it, the water immediately began to slosh up past our knees too fast to feel it. A moment later, we dove headfirst into the surf. The chill hit to the bone, but like Stevens, I couldn't even tell where I was. But my feet found the bottom, and triumphantly I stood up and spread my arms wide. Success! I had gone where only a few thousand had gone before me and raised money for a good cause in the process.

Visit studlife.com for more photos of the event and the backstory with reporter Scott Fabricant.



Eric Waetjen



The WUPD team storms into the water.

MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Wash. U. alumni works hit the shelves

Lana Goldsmith
Scene Regular Features Editor

Wouldn't it be cool to write a book someday? It would be safe to say that many students would answer "yes" to that question. A number of Washington University alumni have fulfilled that dream, having composed literary works spanning a variety of genres and unusual topics.

If you've heard his name before, you may remember him as Chelsea Clinton's ex-boyfriend. Aside from his celebrity relationship, Wash. U. alum Ian Klaus has another claim to fame; Klaus wrote a book entitled "Elvis is Titanic: Classroom Tales from Iraqi Kurdistan" that was published by Vintage Books USA in September of last year. This non-fiction piece deals with Klaus' experience at Salahaddin University in Arbil, Iraq during the spring of 2005. As a Rhodes Scholar, Klaus taught American history and English at the university during the turbulence of the war and the instability that punctuated the beginning of post-Saddam Iraq.

Fans of poetry will be pleased to count Amber Flora Thomas as one of our alums. She graduated from Washington University's Master

of Fine Arts program a few years back, and in 2005, she published a collection of poems entitled "Eye of Water." This collection received the Cave Canem Poetry Prize in 2004. Thomas has also won several other awards for her work, including the Ann Stanford Prize and the Richard Peterson Prize. She is presently a faculty member at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

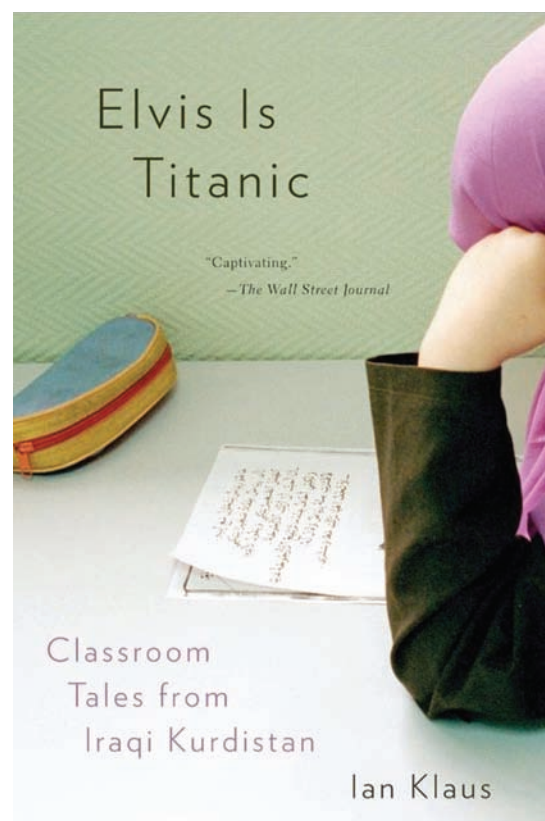
Juniors and seniors may remember a buzz around campus concerning a pop-up book about bras. In November 2006, "Hoorah for the Bra: A Perky Peek at the History of the Brassiere" hit the bookshelves. This colorful pop-up was written, illustrated and designed by Cheree Berry and is a fun and interactive way to learn about the developing identity of the bra over time. The book is ornately designed, bound in pink satin and closing with a bra clasp just for fun (or for practice—it serves whichever function you need).

Berry graduated in 2000 from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, where she is now an adjunct lecturer in communication design. Aside from teaching, Berry worked as an associate art director for Kate Spade in New York, working on the wedding and personalized stationary

lines. She currently designs stationary for her own company, Cheree Berry Paper. To check out her designs or place an order, visit her Web site at www.chereeberry.com.

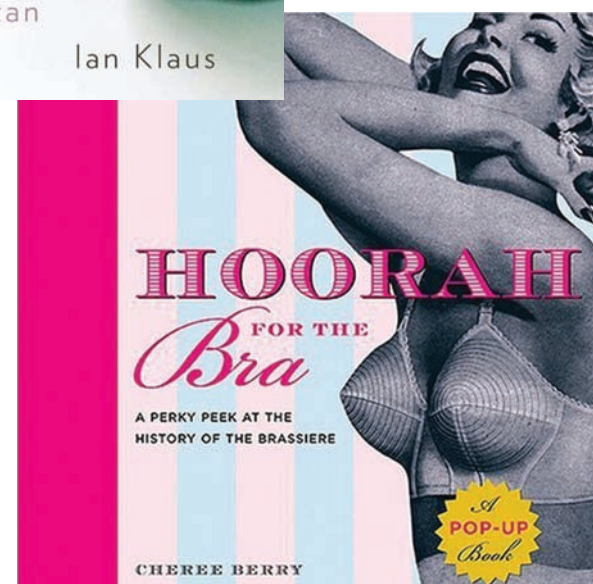
Feel like you're having a quarter-life crisis? So did Abby Wilner. In fact, she coined the phrase after she graduated from Wash. U. in the late 1990s. Wilner wrote "The Quarterlifer's Companion" and co-authored "Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties." Both of the books deal with managing the difficult transition from college student to adult and all the pleasures and horrors that come with it. Accompanying the books is a Web site, quarterlifecrisis.com, that has various interactive features, including a message board. Wilner and Cathy Stocker, another co-founder of quarterlifecrisis.com, also hold workshops at universities across the country. When she's not helping people through crises, Wilner works as a web administrator in Washington D.C.

All of the books mentioned in this article are available for purchase at the Washington University campus bookstore. So if you're looking for a good read, head over to Mallinckrodt to be inspired by the impressive feats of Wash. U. alumni.



Classroom
Tales from
Iraqi Kurdistan

Ian Klaus



HOORAH
FOR THE
Bra

A PERKY PEEK AT THE
HISTORY OF THE BRASSIERE

CHEREE BERRY