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Administration has yet to effect faculty pay cuts

Kelly Fahy
Staff Reporter

With the economic downturn affecting college finances, Washington University's administration has had to reduce its budget.

But the administration has been avoiding cuts in two areas: staff salaries and student-related activities.

Chancellor Mark Wrighton said that the administration would not reduce salaries "across the board."

"We will be looking at compensation expense as one of those areas of concern," Wrighton said in a televised interview with *Student Life* and WUTV last week.

No pay cuts have been made other than Wrighton's reduction in his own salary, according to Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Ann Prenatt, though several vice chancellors were said to have volunteered to accept salary freezes in the wake of the University's

endowment decrease. As the administration is reviewing its expenses, it will constrain its compensation, administrative and construction expenses, Prenatt said.

Washington University has an operating budget of nearly \$1.9 billion. About half of that sum is spent on compensation expenses.

The University's colleges and departments have been asked to make cutbacks in their budget where possible. Wrighton announced the first major cutback in late November 2008: a voluntary reduction in his own salary by five percent, with another five percent reduction planned for this summer.

"I wanted to signal to the community that this is a very serious environment in which we are operating," Wrighton said.

Although the administration has not effected pay cuts, Wrighton stressed that its policy toward staff salary would remain reasonable and restrained.

"The increases in compensation will be very modest if at all," Wrighton



SAM GUZIK | STUDENT LIFE

I wanted to signal to the community that this is a very serious environment in which we are operating.

Chancellor Mark Wrighton



WU STL PHOTO SERVICES

Whatever we are going to do [about the economic situation], it should not come at the cost of our students' learning experience.

Dean Mahendra Gupta



SAM GUZIK | STUDENT LIFE

We all feel that this is a time of uncertainty... We all have to do something. If we all pull together, it will be easier on the whole.

Dean James McLeod

ton said. "Obviously a university is all about its people, but we do hope that with constraint in our operations beyond personnel expenses, we'll be able to hold up compensation at least to the values of this year."

Wrighton remained optimistic that the University would weather the economic crisis. When reductions "of a certain magnitude" occur, the University may lay off some employees, but will in the meantime maintain its current staff.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science

According to an e-mail from Nick Benassi, associate dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the school's administration is "doing all it can" to save money without compromising the quality of education.

Benassi said that he has considered reducing the budget by "delaying

See **PAY CUTS**, page 3



BEING HAMLET SATHYA SRIDHARAN

SAM GUZIK | STUDENT LIFE

The performance of "Hamlet" at the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre, directed by Drama Professor Henry Schvey and performed by a Washington University student cast, will be showing again this weekend. But what is it like for the actor behind the title character? Managing Editor David Song spoke with Sathya Sridharan, who plays the young Danish prince.

Student Life: *Hamlet is, in part, a play about identity. Who is Hamlet to you?*

Sathya Sridharan: To me, he's a kid who's thrown into really unfortunate circumstances, who's had the pressures of a world caving in on him. And he's forced to deal with them the best way he knows how. But—there's this temptation to think of Hamlet as this great, brooding, melancholy character.

SL: *Are there other ways to view Hamlet?*

SS: There's an infinite number of Hamlets for actors to play, and there's a lot of humor, a lot of thinking, in Hamlet. He's out-thinking himself—he's incredibly intelligent, incredibly sensitive. He wants very much to do

the right thing. He wants to fit in and be accepted in a world that has pushed him out. There's that feeling of wanting to be accepted in the room, to be the funniest and the loudest.

SL: *And what about his loathing?*

SS: The loathing comes out of that—the need to cope with insecurities, instability. The Hamlet I found was pulled from my experience, in terms of vulnerability and humor.

SL: *Does Hamlet the 18-year-old speak to you more than Hamlet the adult?*

SS: Yeah. When you read the script, there are so many shifts and mood swings. He oscillates emotionally. You don't want to be stereotypical about the teenage experience—but to me, personally, that's what being a kid was about—trying to make sense of the world, of things happening very fast.

And I think he's funny. A younger Hamlet allows me humor in this play, versus an older Hamlet, who has a heavier quality.

SL: *What about your rapport with the other actors? Hopefully it's better than Hamlet's and Ophelia's.*

SS: With Justin Joseph as

See **HAMLET** page 7

Interview by David Song
Managing Editor

KWUR Week brings lesser-known artists to campus

John Scott
News Editor

While many students get excited about W.I.L.D. and shows in the Gargoyle, KWUR Week provides a chance for students to hear from artists whom they might not otherwise have an opportunity to hear.

On Wednesday, the programming on the radio station hosted an experimental show at the 560 Building that featured Hair Police, Skarekraw Radio and Ghost Ice.

Thursday's acts included a blues show headlined by Boo Hanks. Hanks, according to KWUR Events Director Matt Curry, is one the last living legends of Piedmont Blues.

Upcoming shows include a hip-hop performance on Friday night. On Saturday there will be a



Wave Show, which features Indie groups and which will be headlined by The Mae Shi. The show will also include The Hibernauts, whose bassist is Washington Uni-

See **KWUR WEEK**, page 7

Stimulus package to support science

WU professor helps secure research funds

Becca Krock
Staff Reporter

Despite proposed cuts, the \$787 billion stimulus package signed into law Tuesday included almost \$20 billion for basic science, in part due to the advocacy of a Washington University professor.

Associate Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences Michael Wyssession is among the many University faculty who move beyond the academic realm by educating congressmen about topics relevant to their legislation. Wyssession traveled to Washington twice in the past month to ask Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., to fight for the inclusion of science funding in the bill.

In his analysis, health science fared very well in the bill, although basic science and education were relatively underrepresented.

"It was very disappointing the way so much education got lashed out of the bill at the last minute," he said. "But that's how compro-

mises work. It's a start, and it's a symbol that this administration actually believes in science."

During negotiation over the Senate version of the bill on Friday, Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Bill Nelson, D-Fla., proposed \$3.1 billion in cuts to research. These cuts were rejected.

According to Wyssession, constituents' calls, e-mails and visits played a significant part in the debate over what to include in the stimulus package, showing that grassroots political involvement can have concrete results.

"The message to all the students should be, your congress-people and senators will listen to you," Wyssession said. "They take this seriously, they tabulate [constituent messages], and it will often sway their votes one way or another."

Wyssession, who often travels around the country giving talks about seismology, climate change and energy, believes that faculty can have a large impact by communicating with non-academics like politicians.

"It's something a lot of faculty do regularly. It's not sufficient for us to just do our work," he said.

While the University's tax status as a nonprofit organization means that faculty are not allowed

See **STIMULUS**, page 7

Greek leaders consider house for sorority women

Puneet Kollipara
News Editor

Greek life leaders and the Campus Life Office are mulling over a proposal that would turn the former house of Sigma Alpha Mu into Washington University's first-ever residence for sorority women.

The plan, generated by Coordinator for Greek Housing Programs David Wallace, would make House 1, which houses up to 35 people, into a "Panhellenic house" that would include four or five women from each of Washington University's seven sororities.

Junior Amanda Coppock, president of the Women's Panhellenic Association, said the plan was developed in part because it would allow Greek life to continue using House 1.

Sigma Alpha Mu (SAM) previously occupied the building, but the administration stripped the fraternity of the house in mid-January following a drug bust in mid-December.

The proposal is now in its beginning stages. Director of Greek Life Ryan-Jasen Henne described

the Panhellenic house as "just an idea" in its inception with many questions left to answer.

Wallace also said that the plan is still under consideration.

"We have spent a lot of time talking about it, but at the same time there's still a lot of 'what if's' that haven't been answered," Wallace said. "We don't necessarily want to go forward with a lot of 'what if's.'"

Administrators in the Greek Life Office and Campus Life Office say they don't know yet if the plan will become a reality because they must first determine logistical details and whether there is enough interest from the Panhellenic community.

The biggest challenge they may face, however, is time. Wallace said that if nothing happens before fraternity contracts are due on March 5, administrators may pull the plug on the project because they don't want to rush the proposal into action.

"The ultimate question will be, 'Do we have the time and resources to do it right and have a positive

See **SORORITIES**, page 7



MATT LANTER | STUDENT LIFE

House 1, the former Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity house, may soon be turned into a Panhellenic house.

READ ALL OVER

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Please Recycle

Men's and women's basketball
Athletic Complex, 11:30 p.m. (men) and 1:30 p.m. (women)
Come cheer on the Bears as they play in two exciting games against the University of Rochester this Sunday. The men's game holds the potential to be Coach Mark Edwards' 500th win, and the women's game could decide the victor of this year's UAA Conference.

In Paris on Thursday, a horse escaped the Republican Guard, throwing off its rider to gallop free through the streets along the River Seine. Sporting a neon green jacket, the brown horse caused traffic jams throughout the city. The horse, named Garibaldi, crossed several busy intersections. He sustained minor injuries during his escape, slipping on wet streets and falling several times. The police caught up to the horse after 15 minutes, and were then able to capture him. Giuseppe Garibaldi was a 19th-century Italian politician and military leader who helped unify Italy. (Michelle Merlin)

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questions for JOSEPHINE OLSEN

acting director of the Peace Corps

Interview by Bryan Beth
Contributing Reporter

Acting Director of the Peace Corps Josephine Olsen was on campus Thursday as part of “Making the Difference Day: Careers in Government and Public Policy.” Contributing Reporter Bryan Beth spoke with Olsen about the corps’ mission, what it means to college students and how it aims to change the world.

Student Life: What do you see as the mission of the Peace Corps?

Josephine Olsen: Well, what’s most important for me in communicating is the importance of service, and as possible, international service. The Peace Corps is alive and well and a wonderful place for students because it builds leadership. It takes who you are as an American into a community in some other spot of the world.

SL: Has it benefitted those volunteers and the communities they serve?

JO: Yes. First we talk about how much it benefits the Peace Corps volunteer. And you talk to almost any returning Peace Corps volunteer who says, “Well I got much more out of it than I’m sure my community did” and I, who was involved in Tunisia, feel the

same way because it totally changed my life in terms of how I try to listen and feel, appreciate others’ experiences, but what we’re finding is that in the countries, people have gained their own kind of self-respect, they gained self-confidence, they gained technical skills from the volunteer whether it’s speaking better English or understanding health issues and nutrition values for kids, but they also learn more about Americans.

SL: Why would a college graduate want to go into the Peace Corps as opposed to the private sector?

JO: For people who want to go into foreign service—national work of any kind—being a Peace Corps volunteer is one of the strongest assets they can bring. The person who’s going to be the next ambassador to Iraq was a Peace Corps volunteer so it is a real enhancement for an international career. It also is an enhancement for a public-sector career or a non-profit career here in the U.S. so it strengthens a lot of service that people might think of as a career choice.

SL: Washington University has scholarships for Peace Corps volunteers. Why do you see that as important?

JO: The importance of that is because Wash. U. is saying, “We value that Peace Corps experience.” What I hear from admission directors and from faculty and fellow graduate students is that what that grad student brings who’s a volunteer is a flexibility, a problem-solving set of skills and perspectives. They can get in and do whatever needs to happen to make their experience successful.

SL: Were you recently appointed to the position of acting director?

JO: I was [appointed] deputy director seven years ago under the Bush administration. The Obama transition team asked me to stay on and work so I’m thrilled, I’m honored. This is so exciting because the administration is such a strong believer in the Peace Corps and has publicly advocated increasing the size of the Peace Corps.

SL: Is the economic crisis affecting your

vision for the corps?

JO: Not at the moment. The applications to the Peace Corps are up and I think that has more to do with the sense of service and the valuing of service. This is very encouraging to us. Countries are coming forward and saying, “We really want to do this” or asking for the Peace Corps either increasing the number of volunteers serving in the countries or saying “Please can you return to our countries?”

These are countries that we served in some years ago so I’m hoping that it gives us an opportunity to make more opportunities available for the people that want to serve.

SL: Why does the Peace Corps make such an effort to recruit college students?

JO: About 93-94 percent of all peace corps volunteers do have a bachelor’s degree. Most countries prefer someone with that college degree because it brings just enough of the maturity and technical skill. Because it is a 27-month commitment and you cannot take families it seems to work best for people who are beginning or who have recently graduated college and don’t have a house or a car and haven’t had that first child yet. It’s a good time as a whole beginning place to a career.

SL: It’s been said that one of the biggest obstacles to overcome in the Peace Corps is the language barrier. In your personal experience, did you find that you overcame that language barrier by just being there?

JO: For [the first] three months you’re completely engrossed in learning the language, whatever the language is. The language instructors are native speakers from the communities where you’re going to be serving and so they basically just put you into the mix. It’s not easy but very intense and after the three months you will actually go out to your community. The language is so important because behind the language is the culture. You’re valuing the person, you’re valuing the community when you learn that language because you’re saying, “You’re important and I respect you.”

PAY CUTS from page 1

equipment purchases, holding salaries for faculty and staff flat for next fiscal year, and limiting travel.”

The engineering school does not expect to sacrifice its strategic plan to combat the effects of the economic downturn. The school is also developing new sources of revenue to keep the school on track with its plans—such sources include the creation of new master’s programs, increasing enrollment and alumni donations, and securing funds for research.

The College of Arts & Sciences

Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences James McLeod stressed that the college’s faculty would maintain a high quality of education for its students. As

such, McLeod plans to cut back costs without “impact[ing] the student experience.”

McLeod emphasized that the college would not lay off personnel in the coming fiscal year, but compensation levels will not increase. Like Benassi, McLeod said he recognizes the importance of the community cooperating to make it through the difficult times.

“We all feel that this is a time of uncertainty,” he said. “We all have to do something. If we all pull together, it will be easier on the whole.”

The Olin Business School

Mahendra Gupta, dean of the Olin Business School, described his school’s approach to the economic crisis. Like

McLeod, Gupta is looking for efficiency without sacrificing the student experience. He suggested saving money on less lavish receptions, fewer recruiting trips and recycling where possible.

“Whatever we are going to do [about the economic situation], it should not come at the cost of our students’ learning experience,” Gupta said. “It should not come at the cost of the work environment we have for the people who work for our faculty and for our students. Those are simple boundary conditions. Students come first in this.”

Gupta added that no classes or electives would be cut to save funds.

The business school administration has already agreed not to reduce faculty salaries. Gupta has instead in-

structed his departments to find ways to save 5 percent on non-compensation expenses.

“There is even no inflationary increase in those budget items,” Gupta said.

“There will be cutbacks as needed given our current and emerging economic situations, but not at the cost of compromising student learning or student college experience,” he said.

Like the deans of the other University departments, Gupta said he will guide the Business School while keeping in mind the welfare of the University as a whole.

“The Business School is part of the University and the fiscal challenges that we are facing are no different from what the rest of the University is

facing. We are facing the same challenges in terms of the drop in endowment value and funds available to us for spending,” Gupta said. “So we all have to recalibrate, tighten our belts, do whatever is needed to cut costs.”

Looking toward the future, Gupta emphasized the need for all decisions, both in the Business School and across the University, to be made with the long-run impact in mind.

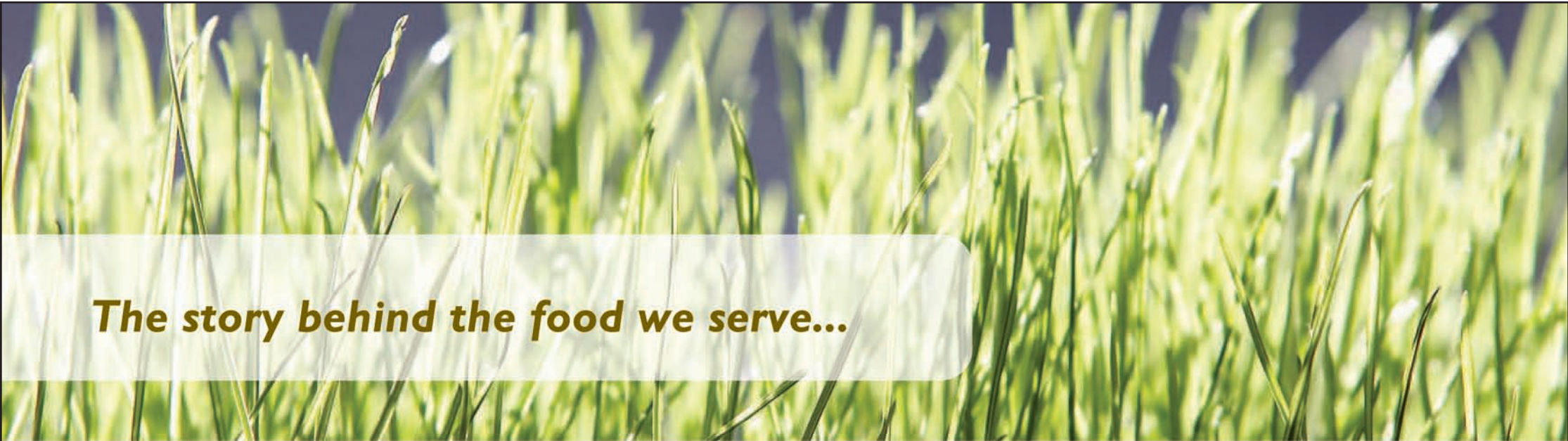
“What we need to do as we move forward is to plan prudently for the next fiscal year and the year beyond, but also make sure that we are ready and prepared, both if we see a surprising upturn or a surprising downturn because universities are forever, and therefore we can’t make any decision that is just for next year,” he said.

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A falling star or a harsh society?

Aditya Sarvesh
Forum Editor

After the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps was an American sports icon: a gold medal record-breaker, dedicated, and most importantly, drug free. However, after Phelps admitted to marijuana usage, sponsors and fans are condemning him and even calling for further investigation into his past drug usage.

Phelps was captured in a photo holding a marijuana pipe, and the fallout from the photo was enormous. Kellogg's dropped its sponsorship, and the U.S. swimming team suspended him for three months. In today's sports world, the mere suspicion of an athlete's drug use can ruin his or her reputation. But should there be a difference between enforcement of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) and recreational drugs? I believe so, because PEDs make an impact in the athletes' careers while other drugs affect their private lives. Outside of

the court and the gym, a person's private life should not be within the jurisdiction of sports commissions.

The American public usually responds dramatically whenever icons and stars are caught doing drugs. A study done in 2007 by the Office of National Drug Control Policy states that about 40.6 percent of the U.S. population has smoked marijuana at one point or another. That's more than 100 million people, yet we still hypocritically condemn others for using one of the most common illicit drugs. I'm not saying that marijuana usage should be condoned; however, the extent to which we judge stars seems to be reaching alarmingly high levels. Yes, Phelps has faced consequences for his actions, and hopefully has learned his lesson (not to get tagged in Facebook pictures!). The public should stop trying to further destroy his reputation.

The world of sports has even come under the scrutiny of legislative groups. Remember last year when Roger Clemens was questioned by U.S. congressmen at the House committee hearing on

See SARVESH, page 5

Celebrities misbehavin'

Eve Samborn
Staff Columnist

This is not a good time to be a misbehaved celebrity.

In just a few short weeks, Michael Phelps was caught smoking marijuana, Alex Rodriguez confessed to using steroids and one of Barack Obama's cabinet nominees dropped out of the confirmation process amidst revelations about his failure to pay certain taxes.

All have been castigated for their gross crimes against humanity, have lost contracts or nominations and are facing severe setbacks to their careers.

Maybe we should tar and feather them, too. Somebody grab the pitchforks. Anyone got torches?

After all, politicians and athletes are supposed to be immortal, perfect demigods. We should not allow them to make mistakes. Ever.

Seriously, such logic is ridiculous. No public figure, no matter how famous and revered, is flawless and we cannot expect them to be so.

I am in no way seeking to defend the actions of Tom Daschle, Michael Phelps and Alex Rodriguez. As the daughter of a federal prosecutor, I believe firmly in paying taxes. As the big sister of an aspiring young baseball player, I am deeply disappointed in athletes who use steroids.

Furthermore, I do think that people who chose to enter the public life should be held to a higher standard. Athletes and other entertainment figures are role models to many and should act accordingly. That is the price they pay for fame. Moreover, it should go without saying that people who seek government office should not be above the law.

But we are talking about people, not icons. They make mistakes, and when they do, they should be punished according to the crime, not crucified as public scapegoats.

Meanwhile, while the rest of us are gawking at cell phone pictures of Phelps, the CEOs who presided over the recent financial collapse are continuing to rake in obscenely large bonuses, even as they fly their private jets to Washington to ask the government to clean up their catastrophic mistakes.

I am beginning to think that our self-righteous indignation might be slightly misplaced. Our country is facing an appall-

ing mess right now. To translate our national problems into Wash. U. terms, imagine that it is 2 a.m. on a Sunday night. You have an organic chemistry exam tomorrow night, an in-class Latin test, and a 12-page history paper due at noon—and you have yet to start studying or writing at all.

Powerless to finish all of your work in time, thus solving the actual problem, you look for a scapegoat. You end up informing your history professor that your precious dog ate pages 2-12. Granted, this excuse is problematic if your professor knows that you live in a pet-free dorm—or really if he or she ever passed third grade—but even a pathetic attempt to lay the blame elsewhere often feels better than complete helplessness.

There is little we can do to punish the CEOs who drove their companies into bankruptcy. Even executive compensation limits for bailout companies will inevitably leave room for loopholes. With the elections over, and particularly with former President Bush safely ushered back to Texas, we have no real means of punishing blameworthy politicians either.

Instead, as graphs of our country's economic measurements begin to follow the trajectory of Isaac Newton's famous apple, the best we can do is yell at a bunch of drug users.

Yet, while this public scapegoating has seemed particularly pronounced to me in the past few weeks, it has earlier roots. In what I felt was one of the worst moments of the 2008 presidential campaign, anti-genocide advocate Samantha Powers resigned from her advisory position with the Obama campaign after calling Hillary Clinton a monster.

One wrong word should not negate a lifetime of efforts to stop genocide. One rhetorical mistake should not distract us from our efforts to understand the real issues we currently face.

We need to eradicate this "gotcha!" media culture that harps on small, easy-to-catch slips and ignores more complex, yet more significant, public failures.

Are we really growing up in a world where we can never recover from an embarrassing Facebook picture, but where it's perfectly reasonable to ruin an entire financial system?

I hope not.

Eve is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at elsamborn@wustl.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Expand Writing 1 sections related to freshman coursework

The identity of Writing 1 has long been a question for Washington University. Should all students take the class even if they're studying engineering? Should the class be the same for everyone or should it focus on writing skills that directly apply to certain areas of study? Over the course of the debates, we have arrived at the synthesis that is the current Writing 1 program. The course is required of all freshmen and features the same material and assignments, with the exception of classes based in two of the freshman FOCUS programs. The students in these programs enroll in both a FOCUS course, which is an intense seminar in a particular subject and also enroll in special Writing 1 courses that incorporate material from the FOCUS. We believe that linking the Writing 1 course with another freshman program or class offers the possibility that students could have a unique, enriching Writing 1 experience in which they could explore the relationship between the fundamentals of writing and another chosen area of study.

According to the English Department Web site, "Writing 1 is not an introduction to writing," but a course that challenges students to develop their writing and "prepares them to meet the demands of a new writing situation, and to work within the conventions of academic discourse." Writing 1 seems to be less about teaching students the fundamentals of writing and less about making sure that all Washington University students have a basic writing proficiency than it is about honing their writing skills to effectively and creatively communicate within an academic discourse. If this is the goal, it seems clear that the course should embrace the approach taken by the two special Writing 1 sections. By working to expand its relationship with FOCUS classes and freshmen, Writing 1 will more effectively teach students about writing in the context of an academic discipline in which they have shown interest.

Expanding the program to integrate more Writing 1 classes with FOCUS material also fits into the University's broader academic philosophy. Washington University highly encourages students to take courses that speak to

each other, and even rewards students for doing this by offering incentives to lighten distribution requirements. The philosophy of the University's cluster system is that students should receive a depth of education about particular issues within four different basic divisions, but if you take courses that relate to each other from within different sections, you can count a course from one division toward a distribution requirement from another. For example, under the current system if you take Cognitive Psychology and Great Philosophers, you can count the psychology course as a Textual & Historical Studies class or the philosophy class as Natural Science & Mathematics, the idea being that students are rewarded for taking related courses within different disciplines. Relating Writing 1 to another academic class stresses the relationship between the different skills students learn in college and allows students to apply their writing skills directly to their academic work.

Writing 1 is one of the most universally fundamental and universally bemoaned courses at Washington University. As such, it's important that the

University work to find a way to make the course more effective and engaging for the students in the section. While some students may find the course's current form stimulating, many others consider it a mundane exercise in constructing sentences. By expanding the program, students would have a chance to take a FOCUS course or freshman seminar and a related writing course. The University should continue to offer the traditional Writing 1 course for students who are not interested in taking a FOCUS or seminar, but should move toward the more engaging forms of the course, which are the two that incorporate academic material from a corresponding FOCUS. There's no reason why the Text and Tradition and Law and Society programs should have a monopoly on corresponding FOCUS courses. Literary Culture of Modern Ireland, The Theatre as a Living Art and most of the other FOCUS courses offered could be creatively combined with Writing 1 material. The University should consider making this move forward in order to make the program as engaging and useful as it can possibly be.

RACHEL YOON EDITORIAL CARTOON



No apologies necessary

Bill Hoffman
Forum Editor

Marijuana is bad. No wait, marijuana is terrible! It destroys lives! Anyone who smokes it will either turn into a raving maniac or a total loser, completely devoid of ambition. Haven't you ever seen Reefer Madness? Certainly no one who used pot could ever become an Olympic gold medal winner or a United States president.

What's that you say? Michael Phelps and our last three presidents have all used it? Oh, well in that case, it's even more important for us to condemn marijuana use! If teenagers see that marijuana use is no impediment to becoming a happy, productive and successful person, they will stop believing our lies about how terrible it is!

I'm engaging in hyperbole here (George Bush wasn't productive or successful), but the actual responses to the recent revelation that Phelps

occasionally likes to get baked are only slightly less absurd. Media figures are stumbling over one other to get in line to condemn him for his harmless behavior. But nowhere in any of these pompous displays of pretentious moral outrage will you find any plausible reason to be upset with Phelps.

Most start by saying that his behavior was stupid or foolish. In terms of pure self-interest, this may be true. Phelps would certainly be better off now if he hadn't decided to take bong hits in such an exposed setting. But it's hard to see why we should be so morally offended by Phelps' failure to maximize his self-interest. It's also worth pointing out that the self-inflicted harm in this case wasn't even caused by the copious amount of bong vapor he inhaled with his superhuman lungs, but rather the social disapproval from media elites and the loss of endorsement deals from giant corporations like Kellogg's (which, I might add, owes a large part of its revenue to potheads with the munchies).

It's unsurprising that the false

moral outrage brigade then implores us to "think of the children," that last refuge of all scoundrels with a political agenda. What will parents tell their children now when they ask why they can't smoke pot but Michael Phelps can? The horror!

My first instinct is to respond by quoting Seth Myers from "SNL": "Sure you can smoke pot, right after you win 14 gold medals for your country." But in all seriousness, so what? Most adults drink alcohol while telling their children not to. The most effective deterrents to underage use of harmful substances are the harmful health effects that users can expect to experience, and it's not Phelps' fault that the rather benign effects of marijuana leave many undeterred from using it.

We have, however, found an excellent way to get teenagers to try more dangerous drugs. When they realize that the public service announcements that play up the dangers of marijuana are little more than dubious propaganda, many probably assume that legitimate warnings about the dangers

of other drugs are just as untrustworthy.

In fact, the most harmful effect of using marijuana seems to be that men with guns will arrest you and throw you in prison if they find any of it in your possession. American prisons are bursting at the seams, in no small part because of the hundreds of thousands of marijuana users who are arrested each year in our insane and unjust "war on drugs," for a victimless crime that in most cases doesn't even harm the perpetrator.

The ridiculous spectacle of Phelps, a shining beacon of American greatness, being forced to grovel before a nation where more than 40 percent of adults have tried marijuana shows the embarrassing immaturity of our hypocritical tabloid culture. If Phelps has anything to apologize for, it is that he lacked the courage to stand up and tell his critics to grow up and drop this absurd charade.

Bill is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum Editor. He can be reached via e-mail at william.howard.hoffman.iii@gmail.com.

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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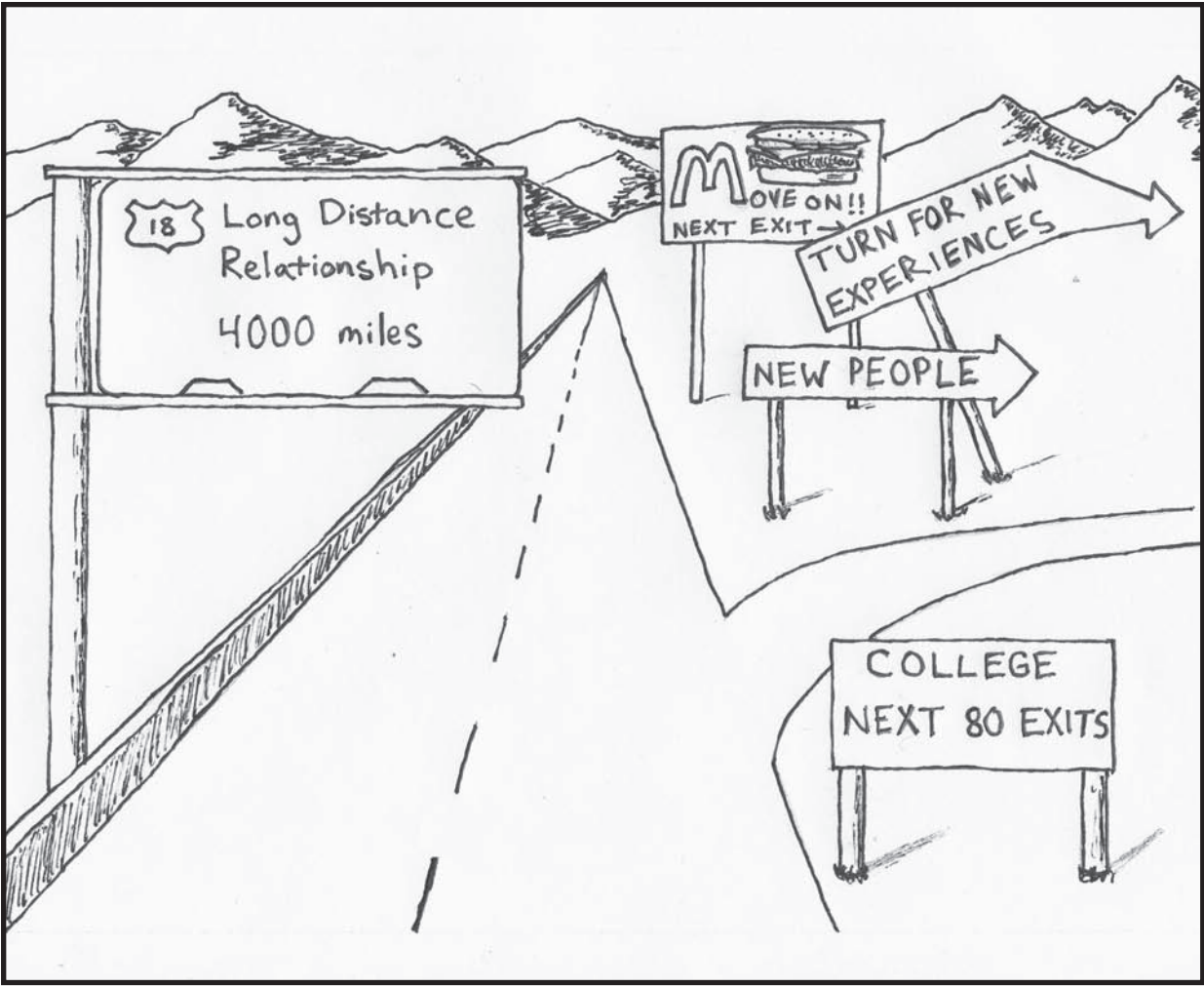
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IAN ROSS | STUDENT LIFE

Long distance goes AWOL

Charlie Low
Staff Columnist

Last Friday’s article by a fellow *Student Life* writer made it seem that if you are willing to make the right sacrifices, long-distance relationships are fulfilling and worth the effort. I am not here to say that they can’t be. If you care deeply about that person and find the time and energy needed to make the relationship fulfilling, all power to you. Seriously, you get mad props from me. I am simply here to give a little tutorial on the other side of Long Distance 101. Less first part of Bambi, more last part, with Bambi’s mom dying. Sorry for the spoiler.

As of last week, my girlfriend of more than a year and I ended our long-distance open relationship. This is an attempt to move on, to be in our own environments, and there is something really important to be said about that. You don’t often hear guys talking about this, but dealing with the end of relationships is as hard for us men of brawn, steel and beer to deal with as it is for you girls out

there. Gender equality all the way!

Neither my ex nor I have experienced another serious relationship, and therein lies the point of this article. One needs to open him or herself to the prospect of liking, or even (God forbid) loving another person. Sounds crazy, right? I don’t intend to kill the dreams of those long-distancers out there reading this, you have enough on your plates already. However, as someone who went through the process of figuring out how to manage the distance, there is so much of a relationship that depends on the tangible aspects of actually being together. I would also have a very hard time continuing a serious relationship on into adulthood if I had not opened myself up to new experiences in college. I would be really frustrated with myself for forsaking all the potential opportunities that college has to throw my way. Think about how badly you would feel if you knew that you gave up the opportunity to wake up in some strange person’s bed and not know what happened! I mean, come on! How great does *that* sound?

Now, my ex and I agree that we both have to get out there and be on our own terms. If it were that simple,

that would be great, but it is so easy to keep wanting to return to the relationship because that is what you know, what you love, what you are comfortable with. It is a safety net. And a little advice from your newly appointed love guru over here, but it is both necessary and incredibly healthy to keep an open mind toward new people despite how utterly terrifying opening yourself up to these weird new people may be. Healthy, by the way, is a relative term. It is “healthy” to eat brussels sprouts, but who actually does that?

Several questions arise after breakups. How do you continue the relationship with this person, if at all? It is logical to stay friends with the person who was once your closest companion, but it is also extremely difficult to move on if you maintain a close relationship. You could erect a Berlin Wall between the two of you, but as we saw from history, that just gets knocked down. Sucks for Communism. If the breakup was mutual and, thus, not horrendously ugly, keep it cordial. At the least, you owe it to your significant other and to yourself. Of course, answers to this question may vary, like the flavors you get in a pack of

Gushers. The bottom line is do what feels right. Then, you have to decide how to interact over breaks, because chances are, if you brought a long-distance relationship to school, you came from the same place. Whether you both end up keeping it kosher as “just friends,” or end up falling back into old patterns and spending every night together is a question you have to call Miss Cleo for. I have no answer for you there. Good luck with that one.

It is not all heartbreak and depression. Even I can see light at the end of the tunnel, and as much as I miss the intimate aspect of a relationship, my ex and I are, for the moment, very close, and I am excited at the prospect of maybe finding someone new, and if not that, then allowing myself to even be open to that prospect. And so on that note, I will bestow these final words upon you: Call me! (You have my e-mail, I’m not going to hand my number out to just anybody. I have some crazy fans.)

Charlie is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at chlow@artsci.wustl.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grow up

Dear Editor,

I read with amusement your annual Sex Issue. St. Valentine’s Day is to celebrate all kinds of love, not just sex. I remember reader responses in past years, pointing this out, but still you persist.

In an online discussion of the economic crisis, an alum pointed out that many think twice about supporting the University due to the hedonistic lifestyle promoted by *Student Life* in recent years. I hope your Sex Issue has not cost our students even ONE low income scholarship.

Whenever I suggest, in online discussion or on an exam, that one carefully masked mission of an elite American university is to serve as an upscale job placement and matchmaking service, and that is why it has to cost so much—to keep the riffraff out—even normally friendly students want to throw things at me. Many Asian students, however, say “Right on, Dr. Bauer, these Americans are such hypocrites about their matchmaking.” We Americans are hypocrites about a lot of things.

To the extent that institutions of this sort reinforce the division into two Americas, they do more harm than good to our nation. Perhaps we should rethink our mission. Perhaps our students should grow up a bit.

I quote Richard Thompson: “Overpaid, oversexed, and over here, get smart, gringo, disappear.”

Lecturer Jerome Bauer

Respect Subway employees

Dear Editor,

I am the owner of the Subway on campus. I read your article about the rape that took place in 2007. Mr. Harris worked for Subway for less than three months in 2003. He primarily worked at my Loop store. He ceased working when he was arrested for an assault in 2003. *Student Life* has on several occasions published this same reference to his Subway employment. I believe that while the statement is factually accurate, the implication one might draw is that he left work and went to the residence to begin the assault.

We strive at all times to hire the best people we can find. We subject them to a thorough background check.

I am proud of the employees of Subway. They work hard for relatively modest wages. Their reputations should not be clouded by false association with alleged rapists.

Loren Grossman

SARVESH from page 4

steroid usage? Lately, more and more politicians are trying to alter laws and control sports. In the case of performance-enhancing drugs, I believe there should be laws making them illegal. But otherwise, constitutional laws are not necessary for controlling sports commissions and their members. This shift toward strictly monitored sporting commissions has reduced interest in various leagues. For example, after the NHL strike and problems, many fans were extremely displeased and NHL viewership decreased greatly. As an NHL fan, I can see great differences from hockey six or seven years ago compared to today. Of course, one must take into consideration the fact that the NHL is no longer on ESPN, and there are fewer fights. The point remains that too many restrictions

seem to diminish the excitement and awe of sports.

Recreational drugs and performance-enhancing drugs are not the same thing, but they are both illegal and must be handled differently. Hopefully Phelps will accept the results of his actions and continue to be a role model athlete. He is still a remarkable athlete and has not been convicted of using any performance-enhancing drugs. Therefore, the American public should continue living their lives and cheering on an American sports icon who excelled through hard work, perseverance and commitment.

Aditya is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a Forum Editor. He can be reached via e-mail at afutlist89@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS with Caleb Posner

The case of 97B

Caleb Posner
Staff Columnist

With election results now certified and coalition negotiations taking place, the million dollar question in Israel is, which multi-party coalition will govern? Will it be a leftist coalition that relies on an uncomfortable alliance with Israel’s ultra-orthodox parties? Will it be a so-called national unity government featuring three of the five major parties? Or will it be, as logic dictates, a center-right-religious coalition led by the increasingly dovish Likud party? While the composition of Israel’s next governing alliance is a worthwhile question, it is somewhat unexciting, since the answer will become a matter of public record in a matter of days (or weeks) once negotiations have concluded and a coalition is built. What interests me more is the status of the outgoing government, especially with regards to Prime Minister Ehud

Olmert. One of Israel’s most corrupt and villainous politicians, Olmert will face a slate of criminal charges including bribery and fraud. Among the numerous outrages, he stands accused of financially extorting charities dedicated to Holocaust education and the assistance of handicapped children. Still, one thing missing from the laundry list of charges for which judicial review is required is Olmert’s obvious violation of clause 97B of Israel’s 1977 Penal Code.

First returned to public attention in May of 2008 when Olmert was allegedly negotiating the surrender of the Golan Heights to the Hezbollah-supporting Iranian proxy state of Syria, clause 97B reads: “A person who, with intent that any area be withdrawn from the sovereignty of the state or placed under the sovereignty of a foreign state, commits an act that has the potential to bring this about is liable to life imprisonment or the death penalty.” Now, Olmert could be guilty of violating this law on at least two occasions. First, as Prime Minister, it

was alleged by many political insiders and close confidants that he conducted secret negotiations with the Syrian government, as a part of which he offered to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Second, before becoming prime minister he was minister of industry, trade, and labor in the Sharon government when Israel expelled thousands of Jews from their homes and withdrew from Gaza, creating Hamastan. The law makes no such requirement that the individual be prime minister for it to apply, nor does it specifically exclude such individuals. Thus, either instance would be grounds for a charge to be filed.

Undoubtedly many people would suggest that the law does not apply here, because the Golan Heights and Gaza are not part of Israel’s internationally recognized borders. Such individuals misunderstand the definition of sovereignty. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (edited by scholars in the associated field) defines it simply as having “supreme authority within a territory.” So, whatever

international law or politically minded individuals might think of Israel’s presence in territory won in the Six Day War, it is quite clear that the legal questions associated with it are irrelevant to considerations of whether or not sovereignty is involved. Obviously, Gaza and Golan Heights were both sovereign Israeli territories, in that the latter has been annexed by Israel and is fully subject to Israeli law, and the former was ultimately under Israeli control until Sharon’s disengagement.

Some might be tempted to suggest that the law applies to the public and is not intended to restrain governmental action. This too is false. As Israeli legal scholar and land possession expert Howard Grief noted on this very topic, “Pre-existing law always supercedes policy, and is required to be implemented under the ‘Rule of Law’ principle.” Having been issued in 1977 and not amended or rendered invalid thereafter, clause 97B of the 1977 Penal Code is still in force today, as it was when Olmert violated it during his time as Prime Minister. Just

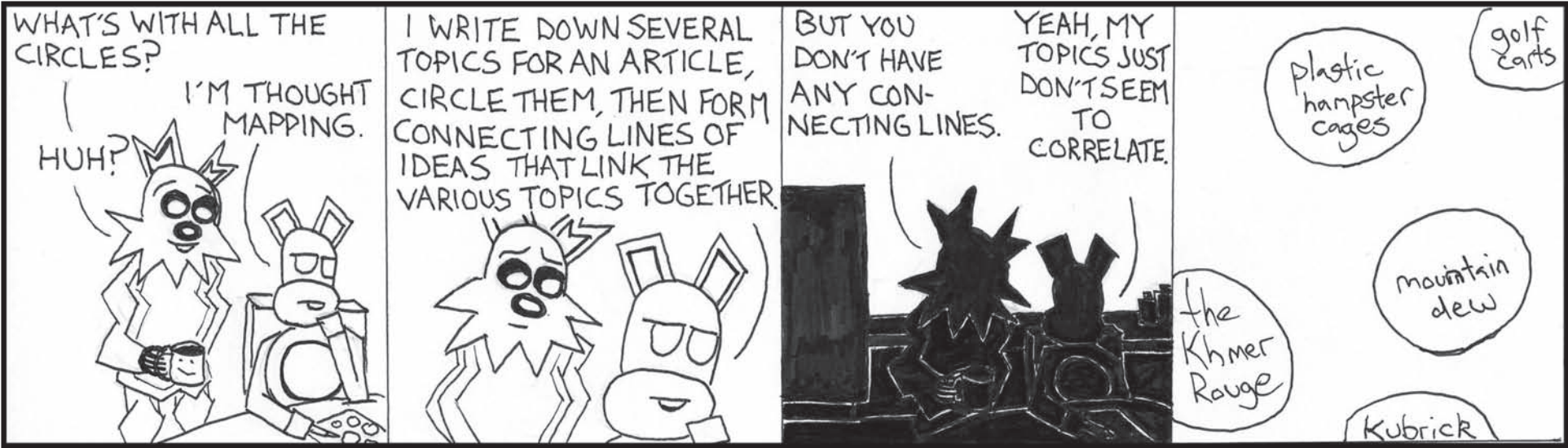
as present day U.S. law can ban politicians from consulting with representatives of outlawed organizations, so too may Israeli laws disallow negotiations or actions that might result in a loss of territory. The concept of having laws that restrict actions generally and apply with equal force to members of government is hardly new or unique to Israel. Since that is not seen as a problem elsewhere, there is no reason to believe that should matter in this particular case either.

Surely, many people, even those convinced that Olmert has run afoul of a valid and enforceable law, would suggest that the Penal Code should be revised, with 97B being removed. That would be foolish, though, for history has validated this provision. The “land for peace” formula has proven time and again that lasting Israeli security will not come from giving up land. Instead, doing so only jeopardizes what little security Israel has, further exposing major population centers to missile and rocket attacks and other acts of war. There can be no better proof than

Gaza. Instead of utilizing it to build a viable and modern state, the Palestinians installed a jihadist organization in power, which has since used Gaza as an operations center from which to launch a daily barrage of devastating rockets on Israeli cities like Sderot and Ashkelon. But foolish and inappropriately optimistic as Israeli politicians seem to be, those representing the mainstream parties have yet to learn this lesson, even though insightful men such as Dr. Michael Ben-Ari and Professor Paul Eidelberg have been bringing attention to this reality for decades. This law, if actually enforced, would cause a shift in policy that could only aid the long-term security of Israel, for it would force an abandonment of the method that has failed Israel for so long. For that to happen, though, clause 97B must be made real again. And the best way to do that is to bring up Ehud Olmert on such a charge.

Caleb is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at cpsonner@artsci.wustl.edu.

KEVIN WOLF PANGAEA



SPORTS

Swan song for school's majorette

Stephi Blank
Sports Reporter

While cheerleaders or a large marching band do not highlight halftime shows at Washington University, Felicia Baskin, majorette (baton twirler) extraordinaire, has entertained fans at football and basketball games for the past 3.5 years.

Whether inside the Field House or on the frozen Francis Field, Baskin has donned her sparkly garb to continue a hobby she began at 4 years old.

"We love to have her perform. The students love her and all the fans love watching her. She's been a staple here," said Trevor MacDonald, director of marketing and promotions for the Athletic Department.

"It will be 18 years this March, which is ridiculous. Basically I saw some people at a parade, and I was like 'that looks fun.' And then my mom and I were at a Toys "R" Us, and I wouldn't put down the baton. So my mom decided to look for lessons in our area, and she found this six-week class. I was four, so she didn't think this was really going anywhere," Baskin said.

Baskin, currently a senior, proved to be a fast learner. What her mom thought was a one-time class became an intensive commitment.

Baskin considers baton twirling a sport and has tried to clear up perceptions about baton twirlers promulgated by the media.

"A lot of people's ideas of it are very 'Miss Congeniality.' People's perceptions are of goofing around or something totally silly, and people don't realize that there's a whole structure of competition behind it," Baskin said. "I think it's easy for people not to see it as sport, but it requires a lot of dedication and practice. You have to work hard to do well. [Some] people have their whole lives built

on it."

While Baskin competed heavily until high school, she also found time for other activities. After competing at the local, state, regional, and national level since around the age of 5 and winning several national competitions, Baskin stopped competing during her freshman year to focus on mock trial and dance. However, she was competing again by her junior year of high school and only stopped upon starting college.

Making competition more difficult is the fact that performers do not know what music they will twirl to until it begins playing at the start of their routine.

"They could do anything from 'The Monster Mash' to Rihanna. I have been living off of jock jams the last few years, and I am really sick of them...I've done 'Fiddler on the Roof,' Disney, [and] I had a lot of fun with 'Footloose.'" I twirled to Persian music once, but I don't know how well it would translate with the audience. But that was probably the coolest, most artistic piece," Baskin said.

Once she arrived at Wash. U. in the fall of 2005, it took the athletic department some time to figure out how to coordinate performances.

"It took them a while because they really didn't know what to do with me. But I love to perform, and someone suggested I try out a football game. I never had the opportunity to do big games, so I really wanted the chance," Baskin said.

Baskin will perform at halftime in tonight's men's basketball game against Carnegie Mellon University and may twirl the following weekend when the Bears host the University of Chicago.

"I am really sad. I didn't think I would care so much, but I really do. I get asked about it in job interviews, and it's on my résumé, so it's a big part of my life...I'm sure that it's something I will tell people I'm friends with later in life. I feel like it's the end of an era," Baskin said.



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Senior Felicia Baskin has been performing at halftime of basketball and football games for the past 3.5 years.

In order to stay involved with the sport, Baskin hopes to pass on her skills to others. She already has taught at the Orange County Jewish Community Center and has coached a team of grade school girls named the Pacific Coast Majorettes who have preformed at Disney Land and other places.

"I don't really anticipate per-

forming much in the future, but I really want to teach little kids. It is really meaningful to see someone have that opportunity to grow through it. It gives you self-confidence," Baskin said.

Baskin was Student Life's senior scene editor during the Fall 2007.

NCAA explores sand volleyball

Johann Qua Hiansen
Sports Reporter

The sand volleyball court outside of Park/Mudd may be seeing more action soon.

Images of Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh clinching Olympic gold despite driving rain have sent the sport's popularity to such heights that the NCAA is considering adopting beach or 'sand' volleyball as an official sport.

"If beach volleyball continues to be a popular spectator sport, then it's going to keep getting more and more attention from the NCAA and certainly us as coaches," said Becky Schmidt, chair of the AVCA Head Coaches Committee and Hope College head volleyball coach.

Each Division has responded in different ways. Division II added sand volleyball to the "emerging sports for women" list in July 2008, meaning that the sport is sanctioned but doesn't have the necessary numbers to have an official championship. A January 2009 vote by the 31-member Division Legislative Council for Division I was narrowly defeated, though it will have another vote in April.

Division III, of which Washington University is a member, has adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

"It's something we're going to keep our eye on. It's not something there's a specific timeline to. If an opportunity presents itself to promote this and see if it might have a chance of passing, then we're going to try and take advantage of it," Schmidt said. "It's not something that we think is on the horizon necessarily."

One of the biggest points of contention is the uniform. Several schools have raised objections to the traditional two-piece bikini.

"We have to be careful about anything that detracts from sand volleyball being perceived as a sport," said Rich Luenemann, Washington University head volleyball coach.

Sophomores Ali Hoffman and Marya Kaminski, both members of the varsity volleyball team, felt no debate was needed.

"The uniforms could be changed, and the game would still be the same," Kaminski said. "Bikinis also make the sport more legitimate because girls actually have to dive on bear skin and stuff. It just makes it easier to get sand everywhere, and makes the game more intense and fun when you dive for the ball and get sand in your mouth and in your suit."

Other obstacles affecting Div.-III schools include cold weather and the ability to build sand courts during tough economic times. Still, Luenemann is intrigued by the idea, citing the welcome respite from the indoor game and the improvement of back court and all-around skills.

For Schmidt and Luenemann, a recruit with beach experience piques their interest.

"They're exercising all the skills of the game," Schmidt said. "They have to be good passers. They have to be good setters. They have to be good hitters, blockers and servers."

Several of the Bears noted that indoor and sand volleyball require some very different skill sets.

"Watching these big, bad indoor girls come from USC and these huge guys from UCLA come to my beach at home to train for the first time is quite honestly hysterical," Hoffman said. "Most girls indoor go for the kill while beach is much more intellectual."

According to Hoffman and Kaminski, their beach experience has sharpened their reflexes, improved their passing and made their skill set better rounded.

There will be a ready market of players should the NCAA adopt the sport. "Most indoor girls are very intrigued by beach and love to play," Hoffman said.

When asked if she would play collegiate sand volleyball given the chance, Hoffman responded, "In a heartbeat. No question about it."

Stepping Out

continued from Scene page 9

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The chicken was superb. The aroma of fresh bacon rose from the plate and was echoed in the taste of the crispy skin. The meat itself was juicy, and the fluffy grits beneath absorbed the flavor of the sauce and acted as a wonderful contrast, both in intensity and in texture.

Finally came dessert. Revival offers two types of dessert: "home-style sweet things," such as bread pudding with Dr. Pepper sauce and red velvet cake, and "snacks" such as bourbon balls and chocolate-covered

bacon. I opted for the doughnuts from the "snacks" choices. The presentation of this dessert was quite amusing: It arrived in a brown paper bag that was then shaken at the table, coating the still warm bread-puffs in a light powdered sugar. The flavor was simple, light and right.

Overall, Revival is a home away from home. It revives the spirit, revives the soul and definitely revives the passion for artfully-created dishes and skillful craftsmanship.

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SORORITIES *from page 1*

experience for any of the people that live there?" Wallace said. "And if we feel that we don't, we won't move forward."

Henne and Jill Carnaghi, associate vice chancellor for students and dean of campus life, confirmed that discussions have occurred between the Greek Life and Campus Life offices. Both declined further comment, citing a lack of additional information about the project.

The house, if finalized, would be the first official residence in the University's history for sorority women.

The University does not prohibit sorority houses, but Greek life for women at the University, Wallace said, has never been geared toward housing. In the

past, the Panhellenic community at the University has decided against sorority houses for social and financial reasons, including construction of the Village in 2001.

Greek leaders say that the house would further unify what they consider to be an already strong community. Wallace characterized the Panhellenic community at the University as "very close-knit" and said that the Panhellenic house would encourage more inter-chapter interaction.

"I think it's an excellent way to embody our Panhellenic spirit, our Greek unity. I think it will also reaffirm that and also provide a really awesome experience for the women [who] will be able to live there," Coppock said.

Before the plan can be realized, Greek life officials must determine house policies and possible renovations as well as what to do in instances when, for example, there are vacancies in a house or when no student from a certain sorority

applies to live in the house.

Greek Life may scrap the plan if there is not enough interest from the Panhellenic community. Interest has been mild so far, something Wallace attributes to the current lack of details about the house.

"There is so much ambiguity that I think there might be less excitement for this housing option than others," Wallace said.

Freshman Sami Alpert, a new member of Alpha Phi, said that while she thinks the Panhellenic house would be a good option, the current lack of sorority houses on campus ensures that students are not just friends with members of their own sorority.

"I think it would be a good option for Greek women who want to strengthen the sorority community to live together, but should by no means be required," Alpert said. "One of the main things I like about Greek life here is that you can be involved but also have many friends outside the Greek community."

If the Panhellenic house fails, the Office of Residential Life (ResLife) may absorb the building. In such a case, ResLife could use it to house upperclassmen, much like it has done with Sigma Alpha Epsilon's (SAE) former building, House 6, since the fraternity lost its University recognition and house in the summer of 2007.

SAE regained its University recognition at the end of last semester, but still does not have a house.

SAM members are currently living in the Greenway Apartments and adjacent Quadrangle housing. Wallace did not comment on a timetable for the fraternity's return to House 6.

"We would have a commitment to that fraternity to give the house back when they're ready to have the house back," Wallace said.

With additional reporting by Lauren Olenz

STIMULUS *from page 1*

to lobby, they are permitted to educate congressmen about topics the faculty thinks are important. The difference is that faculty are not paid by the University to promote their viewpoints.

Many here agree that the University would be an effective recipient for stimulus money.

Professor of Biology Ursula Goodenough, who has also flown to Washington to talk with congressmen in the past, said, "Government funding for scientific research really creates jobs. It's not just like any of it goes to a professor or anything; it's techs in the lab, and people in the stockroom and people who deliver the reagents and the secretaries and everything."

Despite Republicans' near-unanimous opposition to the stimulus, College Republicans President Charis Fischer supported funding scientific research.

"While I generally disagree with the premise of the stimulus package, I do feel that funding for the [National Institutes of Health] and [National Science Foundation]

are good investments," she said.

Fischer felt that not all of the allocations were constructive, however, including \$1.1 billion for evaluating the efficacy of treatments, which she argues may have the unintended side effect of limiting what insurance companies will fund.

Some time will pass before anyone knows whether universities, or any other recipients, will be able to alleviate the economic crisis.

"This will be a tremendous success, or a terrible failure that the Republicans will look back [on] and say, 'Told you so, nah nah.' It has the potential to go either way," Wyssession said.

For pre-medical majors at the University, the provisions in the stimulus package for possible funding to universities are crucial.

"One of the reasons I picked Wash. U. was because of the research opportunities it provided to undergrads. Wash. U. really puts emphasis on that," freshman Joseph Marcus said. "It connects the classroom to the world."

HAMLET *from page 1*

Claudius, we have scenes together [that are] very similar to our own relationship—I'll mess with him a bit, he'll smack me down a bit—it's a lot of fun playing with him. And with Dan Tobin as Laertes, we had to build this trust because of a fencing fight at the end—it's dangerous, and we have this quiet trust between us.

SL: What's the biggest difference between you and Hamlet?

SS: I'm never going to kill anybody.



Julia Mellon (above) and Ginny Page (below) will, respectively, portray Ophelia and Gertrude this weekend at the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. Check studlife.com for an interview with Ginny.

KWUR WEEK *from page 1*

versity grad student and former KWUR DJ Chad Rogers. The group won the Gargoyle's Battle of the Bands competition two years ago, according to Curry.

Curry said that KWUR Week is different from the programming done by other groups on campus because of the types of performances that it offers.

"I like to think of it somehow as a hierarchy in which Team 31 brings really big acts. That's their purpose—they put on W.I.L.D. so they want to basically get something that everyone knows," Curry said. "The Gargoyle tends to put on Indie acts that are kind of—they're popular at the time."

Curry said that KWUR has brought bands that have later become better known.

"We try to put on an eclectic series of concerts that are supposed to highlight people that are up and coming," Curry said. "It's supposed to bring concerts that are kind of showing people what the future is in some sense."

Curry said that it is difficult to plan budgets for events such as KWUR Week because costs can fluctuate considerably and because KWUR's budget has decreased in recent years. He said that since there are several genres of music covered during KWUR Week, several people split up the planning.

"With the Wave Show, I sat down with anyone who was interested in the station and said 'okay, who do we want?'" Curry said.

College Music Journal hosts an annual conference for college radio stations around the country. Four members of KWUR traveled to New York for the conference. Curry said that the conference, which he called "a big turning point," was beneficial because the artists and promoters who attend want to perform for college

audiences.

"You meet all these promoters and see all these bands play and The Mac Shi happened to be one of them. [KWUR members] saw them play live and it's just like 'we have to bring them here.'" Curry said.

Curry said that plans to bring bands to campus often fall through for several reasons such as costs or scheduling.

"We basically have to say, 'Well, thank you for your time' and keep asking different bands,"

he said.

Curry said that KWUR introduces people to music that they have not heard before but enjoy once they have heard it.

"I originally get a lot of 'Who's that?' and then I point them to a MySpace and I hear 'You know, I really like that.' A lot of the stuff you hear on the station is very, very accessible and very similar to what people have heard. You might hear a band that you really like but you've never heard because they don't get played very

often," Curry said.

Sophomore Nick May said that he had heard about the events from a member of the KWUR staff whom he knows, but had not seen very much publicity about it around the campus.

"I got a Facebook message from one of my friends and that's it. Other than that, I don't know if it's very well publicized," May said.

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STUDENT LIFE

In Defense of... myself

Years of Refusal Morrissey

On Why Heath Ledger Doesn't Deserve an Oscar

TJ Keeley
Cadenza Reporter

That's right. Heath Ledger does not deserve to win an Oscar this Sunday for his performance as The Joker in "The Dark Knight." Don't worry, he will. I've never seen so many people unanimously back one candidate in one category. Bet the house on it. If there ever was a lock, it is here. If Ledger doesn't win, prepare for a Sopranos-esque TV blackout, mass rioting, and the end of the world via European particle accelerator.

I don't doubt the performance was good. Very good, in fact. But Ledger is nominated for Best Supporting Actor, not Good Supporting Actor. I've argued this with many people who usually fire back with "but he was amazing." Ok. Or "I couldn't believe it was him." Me neither, under long green hair and makeup. Or "But he was so scary." Yeah, but like Javier Bardem in last year's "No Country for Old Men," though good, being scary in a one-note performance exhibits little range. If director Chris Nolan said "Heath, go be scary," Ledger did a great job, but is that a great performance?

People also justify the universal acclaim with "well, it was better than Nicholson's Joker." True, but look at how different the films are. Burton's Batman was a comic book incarnation on screen. He never tried to convince us that Gotham was a real city, or that these events even took place in our universe. In Nolan's Batman, Gotham is Chicago, so instead of clown, the Joker had to be a terrorist. Good choice, on writer-director Christopher Nolan, and his writing-partner Jonathan's part.

I found that the best and most memorable parts of The Joker were Hannibal Lector-like obsession with countering Batman, his incredibly deceptive plots, and the pencil trick. All executed well by Ledger, but all conceived by the Nolan brothers. Heath Ledger is not the only one that could have

pulled off a good, maybe better, Joker with the script and direction he was given. Wait until the possible third film. If, as rumour has it, Daniel Day-Lewis replaces Ledger, you'll all see what I mean. Day-Lewis could drink Ledger's milkshake.

For Ledger to be deserving of an Oscar, like I said, he need not only have given a great performance, but the best supporting performance by a male actor this year. That is not the case with his Joker. Here is brief breakdown of other worthy performances:

(I haven't seen Michael Shannon in "Revolutionary Road," so I will decline comment).

Robert Downey, Jr. had one hell of a year. Some would say he was nominated for the wrong performance, but the comic brilliance in his turn as Kirk Lazarus in "Tropic Thunder" cannot be denied. Downey channeled a perfect impression of over-the-top method actors who take their work too seriously to the point it harms others (coughs...Christian Bale). Better yet, he played an Australian, but spends most the time in blackface indicting traditional Hollywood stereotypes of African Americans. Is this performance better than Ledger's Joker? I don't think so. It's a toss-up. But don't disregard this iconic performance that would have been filled with Peter Sellars had it been 40 years ago.

The ever-awesome Philip Seymour Hoffman turned in another flawless performance as the maybe-pedophile priest in "Doubt." I was in awe as Hoffman played each scene and line with innocence and suspicion. I went back and forth as to whether he did it. Hoffman executed such a nuanced performance, that each line of dialogue and each gesture could be construed either way. Few actors could pull this off. This was a better performance than Ledger's Joker.

Finally, my vote would go to Josh Brolin in "Milk." He literally self-destructed from the inside and crumbled slowly to pieces,

bringing others down with him. He completed a character arc filled with honesty and sympathy in very little screen time. Mostly, Brolin felt like he was playing a person who I could believe existed whether he was on screen or not. Brolin certainly out-acted Ledger this year.

Two other better performances that weren't nominated were Brendan Gleeson as the morally tortured hitman in "In Bruges" and Aaron Eckhart as the White Knight in "The Dark Knight." Gleeson played the hitman with a heart of gold with depth and a face like a roadmap to his character's soul. Eckhart showed amazing

range in the best performance of his career. Completing an arc as a believable character, Eckhart went from an Obama-like politician in the first half of the film, to a murdering psychopath in the second, almost seamlessly. I believe he out-acted all his other co-stars.

In the end, no one will believe. On Sunday night, Ledger will become the second actor ever to win the award posthumously and the crowd will rise to their feet to applaud the career of a man who's time was cut short. I will feel good for him, but will wander if the "posthumous" part didn't keep this packed category from being a much better race.



Heath Ledger stars as the Joker in "The Dark Knight."

Cici Coquillate
Cadenza Reporter

Suave melancholy is back on Morrissey's tenth studio album, "Years of Refusal." Morrissey's got a very recognizable style, and this album remains true to form with depressing lyrics but altogether solid content. It's very reminiscent of "You Are the Quarry," the 2004 album that many consider to be his best solo work. Mostly, "Years of Refusal" is a multi-layered offering that shows off the best of Morrissey and his backing band.

The vocals are incredibly strong, and Morrissey's smooth voice leads us through each track with a nonchalant attitude that belies the lyrical content of the record. Unlike much of his past work, on this album the angst is directed outwards and hearing him take on friends, enemies, and lovers makes for some engaging storytelling. The political and ethical issues that have marked Morrissey's public life are largely absent from "Years of Refusal," giving way to more personal stories.

The musicianship is fantastic throughout the album. There's some variation of styles, ranging from blues to more electronica-influenced sounds, but the sound centers on the "jangle pop" Morrissey is best known for. The rhythm section is in top form,

★★★★☆
for fans of
The Smiths, The Cure, Depeche Mode,
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Sorry Doesn't Help, All You Need is Me

particularly on "One Day Goodbye Will Be Farewell." Drummer Matt Walker and bassist Solomon Walker build up each track and keep the tempo driving. The one guitar-and-piano based track, "Sorry Doesn't Help," stands out for not relying on bass, which is so refreshing in an era of overproduced treble tracks. The production is super-smooth throughout, and the hand of Blink-182 producer Jerry Finn adds a brighter touch to the album.

The most remarkable thing about the album is its consistency. The tracks line up well together and while some are stronger than other, none of them disappoint. Some standouts include "I'm OK By Myself," with distorted wails over a bass breakdown and "All You Need Is Me," the most danceable track on the album. Fans of Morrissey's work will no doubt be delighted by this next installment, and it's easily accessible for those just discovering Morrissey.

OSCAR PREVIEW from page 10

best original screenplay

Frozen River

Happy-Go-Lucky

In Bruges

Milk

Wall-E

PO: No movie is as charming as "Wall-E." Convention says that a movie carrying this many non-speaking characters should fall like a house of cards under its own weight, but the screenplay did not let that happen.

CR: "Wall-E" needs to get this, even if all the dialogue consists of beeps and tweets. R2-D2 might have been reciting Shakespeare, for all we know.

PO: Milk will win though. You start to marvel at the story. It somehow managed to stay intimate while expanding way beyond California's borders.

AT: Of all of the nominees, "Milk" is the only one nominated for Best Picture, meaning more people liked this movie than the other movies nominated. It definitely seems to have the biggest push behind it, winning the Writer's Guild of America Award. But, "In Bruges" is the most clever and intricate. It is funny and unique and is hands down the most deserving of the nominees. Overall, the movie has so many twists and turns that Martin McDonagh deserves the recognition.

BS: I'm putting my vote behind Martin McDonagh's "In Bruges" script. Hilarious and terrible, his words were as beautiful as the city he put them in.

TJ: Although it won't win, the writing was the strongest part of "In Bruges." McDonagh created an exhilarating crime film and existential morality play. Oh, and the genius wrote the first and only draft in two weeks.

film editing

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

The Dark Night

Frost Nixon

Milk

Slumdog Millionaire

CR: "Dark Knight" should absolutely take this. The sign of really good editing is when you walk out of a theater and feel like you've been pummeled for two hours.

TK: Yes but the editing in "Slumdog Millionaire" helped bring the signature vibrancy of break-neck speed that is Danny Boyle; it made the film undeniable alive.

BS: "Slumdog" should win this one and, despite my love of "The Dark Knight," I think the Slumderdog actually deserves this one. The most salient criticism of "The Dark Knight" was the weight of the picture and how exhausting it was. "Slumdog Millionaire" was brisk, exciting and featured a marvelous accessibility despite jumping back and forth in time.

AT: One of the first aspects I commented on after leaving "Slumdog Millionaire" was how amazing the editing was. It always managed to match exactly with the tone of the scene.

PO: This category doesn't feel like a competition. No movie last year was able to establish, let alone keep up, the crackling pace "Slumdog" holds throughout. The bloom-lit editing in this movie was like nothing anyone in America had really seen before, and I think the shock value will translate nicely into Oscar gold.

cinematography

Changeling

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

The Dark Knight

The Reader

Slumdog Millionaire

TK: "Dark Knight." The flipping semicolon. 'Nuff said.

BS: The Dark Knight will win this category because people within the respective fields vote for the technical categories and because everyone who has ever shot on film is in complete awe of what Wally Pfister achieved on this movie. It should win because I loved this movie and the Academy should only award movies that I like.

PO: I always felt like the camera was enhancing the experience in this movie. It never dragged down the emotional parts or artificially sped up the action bits.

CR: "Button" needs to win something, and as much as I yawned my way through it, it was very, very prettily done.

AT: But "Slumdog Millionaire" is an absolutely beautifully shot and produced film. Everything in the film is visually outstanding, adding to the overall overwhelming effect that this movie has on the viewer. Certainly, that merits the Oscar.

PO: The camera had all the colors "The Dark Knight" didn't care about, and they were blended into a supreme mix. I feel like this category will tagalong with a win at Best Picture.

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Quick ways to fit in community service

Lana Goldsmith
Scene Regular Features Editor

We’ve all had those days full of sitting in the library for hours on end, running around doing errands, talking with professors and meeting for group projects. We don’t have nine-to-five jobs, but our days can be so jam-packed with activities that we hardly find the time to sleep, let alone take on other commitments.

But being the good people we are, we may get that nagging feeling deep down that reminds us of one thing we should be doing: community service. When it comes down to it, we don’t have to be too busy to help others. There are some community service groups on campus that involve a minimum time commitment but make a big impact. The following groups provide a sample of service opportunities that can easily fit into your schedule.

Helping Hands
For an opportunity to put those job-hunting skills to work, try out Helping Hands. This group provides homeless people at the St. Patrick’s Center with the transferable skills they need to get an interview and land a job offer. Junior Raghu Hariharan, program leader of Helping Hands, described the organization as “a unique opportunity for Wash. U. students to help people become proactive rather than just coping with their problems.”

The group makes trips to the center on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., and volunteers have the option to attend either one day or both. Hariharan has found his work especially rewarding due to the visual results. “I helped [one of my clients] with his résumé, I helped him with mock interviews. Then I saw him on campus applying for [a job with] Bon Appétit. He was shaved and in a suit; it was very gratifying.”

Night Off
Night Off is a program that provides free babysitting services for families with autistic children in the community. Senior Tiffany Chung, president of Night Off, can see the difference that



Sophomore Cindy Yovino, second from right, participates in Natural Ties, a program in which students enjoy center court dinner once a week with disabled members of the nearby community.

Wash. U. students have made in the lives of these families in just a short span of time. “This last month we were able to provide services for 10 families,” she said.

Volunteers work in pairs to babysit once a semester or even twice a month if they so choose. Just those few hours can provide enormous relief to the families, Chung said of the babysitting services. “It provides [the parents] a break of normalcy and it’s great to see. They’re so appreciative.”

Not only does it provide the parents with an opportunity to be alone for the evening or run errands, it also provides the children an opportunity for socialization.

Natural Ties
If you have a healthy appetite and frequent Center Court, then you’ve probably encountered Natural Ties. This group brings adult members with disabilities from the St. Louis community to meet once a week with Wash. U. students at Center Court for dinner. These meals provide not only socialization for the community members, but also an opportunity for Wash. U. students to be involved with people in our extended neighborhood.

“It’s really fun,” said sophomore Alyssa Anzalone-Newman, co-program leader of Natural Ties. “Besides,” she added, “you have to eat anyway.”

Whether it’s one night per month or four, Anzalone-Newman says, “We pride ourselves on being a low time commitment.” And if you really can’t swing dinner once a week, you can always donate meal points. Many of the disabled members of the community work in low-paying jobs, and Natural Ties strives to save them money by offering free meals. If you tend to have extra meal points at the end of the year, you can pay for someone’s dinner by sending your name, student ID number and the number of points you would like to donate to Anzalone-Newman at aeanzalo@wustl.edu.

Juvenile Detention Center
The Juvenile Detention Center is a pre-trial facility for people ages 17 and under who have committed crimes in St. Louis. Wash. U. students can volunteer in one of two ways. The first is called study hour, during which volunteers play games with the detainees on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday nights, or Saturday during the day.

The second option, and the one most in need of volunteers, is the one-on-one tutoring, for which you must be at least 21 years old. Senior Dave Shapiro found his experience with tutoring to be very rewarding (Shapiro is also a columnist for Student Life). “You can help the kids find new interests they didn’t know they had,” he said.

Stepping Out Revival

3800 Chouteau
St. Louis, MO 63110

Ethan Brandt
Scene Reporter

Sometimes—especially a month into the spring semester of college—everyone needs a revival: a revival of spirits, of energy, of drive. For Cary McDowell, owner of Revival, the most important thing is “the revival of craftsmanship in our cooking and service.” This goal is aptly achieved in McDowell’s restaurant.

As you walk into Revival and pass through the equivalent of an outdoor screened-porch, you are greeted with a wall-mounted definition of “revival,” a sort of credo for the restaurant to uphold. A modern bar sits to the left while the primary dining area is to the right.

On the way to my table, I passed by a number of extra large booths made to accommodate at least six people, as well as several extra small booths to fit a maximum of two. I was seated at a small, cozy table beside a large brick fireplace, from where I could see a variety of plants in clay pots and glass jars scattered amongst the windows. Soft acoustic guitar played from the overhead speakers, though this eventually melded into Eric Clapton’s “Layla.”

The menu was composed of a number of small, respectable sections underneath the heading of “supper.” The “small starters” section, which ranged from \$3.50 to \$8.50, contained everything from French onion soup to crispy crystal calamari to cheese grits with country ham and a fried egg. There were also many salads, including “mixed salad greens with Missouri goat cheese, green apples and spiced peanuts.” The “sides” selection accentuated the simplicity that was desired

in Revival’s dishes, offering crispy okra, farm toast with sweet beets and goat cheese, baked “mac & cheese” and even “granddaddy’s hush puppies.”

The first dish I received was the dry-rubbed pork spare ribs from the “small starters” section. After asking what the rub was, the chef revealed only that it contained black pepper, cayenne pepper and brown sugar. The dish was a half-rack of ribs and exuded a heavenly aroma of, well, sugar and spice. I grabbed my fork and knife, began to cut and soon realized I didn’t need to; the meat quite literally fell off of the bone. The flavor of the meat was mild, playing well off of the spices and subtle sugar flavor, which occasionally broke through. I suggest you use your hands for this dish—it makes it so much more satisfying.

Next came another starter, the special for the evening: salmon mousse with toasted brioche. This dish was light and delightful. The bread was crispy without being flaky, as toasted bread typically is. The mousse itself lacked any fishy odor or taste, and simply melted in the mouth. After the bread ran out, I put it aside for a while. Upon revisiting the mousse to finish it off with a knife, I noticed a hint of spice that hadn’t been apparent before.

Then came my main course, referred to at Revival as a “Fancy Supper Plate.” While I had been tempted by the Coca Cola-glazed meatloaf, I decided on the wood oven “chicken & grits.” For this dish and several others, Revival takes advantage of a wood oven located outside the restaurant to add a special flavor and texture. More than anything, this detail shows Revival’s dedication to its mission statement of “the revival of craftsmanship.”

See STEP. OUT, page 6

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

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

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

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1 _-tac-toe

4 Finally!

10 Flounder cousin

14 Big fuss

15 Slight quake

16 Legal bargain

17 X

18 Weight room denizen

20 Off target

22 Block of time

23 Turncoat

24 Plant fungus

30 Say grace

32 University of Maine setting

33 Rabbit relative

34 RPM word

35 Formal letter

37 Edge of a crater

38 Adam's partner

39 Cigarette additive

40 Indy circuit

41 Bog

42 Destroyers

43 Lennon's widow

44 Expanse

46 Substandard urban housing

47 Mardi _

48 Linens

50 Rascal

51 POW possibly

52 Sophisticated

55 Put concisely

61 Crackers

62 Nabokov novel

63 Texas oranges

64 Denouement

65 Askew

66 Latest

67 Express vocally

DOWN

1 Bye-bye!

2 March middle

3 Denied the truth of

4 On deck followup

5 Ex-QB Aikman

6 Trailblazed

7 Writer Tan

8 Express sorrow

9 1991 John Cusack film

10 Result of a cannonball

11 Advanced in age

12 Marvin or Remick

13 Corn serving

19 Tick off

21 Sunbeam

24 Patchy colored

25 Missed the boat

26 National songs

27 After-dinner pastimes

28 Journalist Fallaci

29 Paces

30 Module classroom

31 Midnight rider of old

32 Hunting period

35 Outback bird

36 Ernie of the PGA

45 An equal amount

Solutions

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E	T	O	S		L	S	V	T	L	V		C	I	L	

47 Flap lips

49 With it

50 Force from

52 Shoshones

53 Granny

54 Form into a vortex

55 Air purifier letters?

56 Compass dir.

57 Geom. shape

58 Put into practice

59 Regulation

60 Become mellow



OSCAR PREVIEW

Cadenza staff

Come late Sunday night, after awards are handed out, swag worth more than my house has been thrown carelessly into the back of various limousines, and best and worst dressed lists are being compiled, you, the viewer of the 81st Annual Academy Awards, will probably be wondering, what in God's name was the Academy thinking? After arduously studying years worth of Oscar footage, we at Cadenza half-understand the nomination snubs, backwards politics and weird rules (i.e. I'm pretty sure the Academy picks the winner for Best Supporting Actress out of a hat) that constitute this epic event. So, we've decided to share our knowledge, and predict whom the Academy will choose to win, and why they were probably wrong.

But first, the cinemaphiles:
Stephanie Spera
Cecilia Razak
Percy Olsen
TJ Keely
Alex Torreno
Brian Stitt

best picture

- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Frost/Nixon
- Milk
- The Reader
- Slumdog Millionaire

CR: What will win? "Slumdog," or, in a typical Academy knee-jerk reaction, "Ben Button." What should win is the film from the studio that will never be nominated in this category. Which isn't too sad because, since Pixar has been so regularly creating movies that are beautiful, thrilling and with a skin-cell-close eye for detail that has been so often passed over, the Academy isn't qualified to award it anything, anyway.

AT: "Slumdog" has absolutely cleaned up the Oscar season awards, including the Golden Globe Best Drama Picture, the PGA, the SAG ensemble award, and the BAFTA as well as appearing on numerous critics' lists. The movie has swept thus far and will continue this trend at the Oscars.

BS: As much as the heavy handed fatalism in "Slumdog Millionaire" irks me, it's hard not to root for this improbable Best picture nominee. The fact that it's sure to win shouldn't dissuade everyone from acting like it's an underdog. I'm still upset that "The Dark Knight" couldn't fight his way onto this list, but that's life in the big city.

PO: The buzz around "Slumdog" is great and warranted. It's one of those movies that you find yourself sitting all the way through, even if you know the ending.

But "Milk" should win: The story was great, uplifting, and tragic. I can't find a more relevant movie in the bunch.

TK: What about "Synecdoche, New York?" This film had no chance in hell of getting nominated. It's puzzling, and I don't entirely get it; I'm not sure anyone does. But it was a powerhouse, and the most ambitious film I have ever seen. Give it time, just give it time. Charlie Kaufman is a genius.

best director

- Richard Jenkins
The Visitor
- Frank Langella
Frost/Nixon
- Sean Penn
Milk
- Brad Pitt
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Mickey Rourke
The Wrestler

CR: For some reason, the Academy loves Ron Howard. Out of the noms, Gus Van Sant deserves to take this one home, though.

BS: Danny Boyle is a filmmaker I respect deeply, due to the wide range of genres he's attempted and his surprising success rate. While he'll be the one picking up a statue on Sunday I'd like to see Gus Van Sant take it for turning what could have been ordinary Harvey Milk propaganda into a unique and moving film.

TJ: Christopher Nolan should get the statuette for creating a masterpiece out of a genre film adapted from comic books, while juggling an epic budget, scope, cast and slew of themes almost flawlessly.

AT: But Danny Boyle has made some of the most original movies in recent times ("28 Days Later" and "Millions" to name a couple) and has succeeded in topping his previous feats with "Slumdog Millionaire." This brilliant director is finally receiving recognition for his amazing work and should ride that train all the way to the Oscars Best Director.

PO: Not nominated, but not forgotten, Andrew Stanton's direction of "Wall-E" filled these emotionless robots with wit and heart, and space has never been this romantic.

actress in a leading role

- Anne Hathaway
Rachel Getting Married
- Angelina Jolie
Changeling
- Melissa Leo
Frozen River
- Meryl Streep
Doubt
- Kate Winslet
The Reader

CR: It's just wrong that Angelina Jolie got a nod for her performance; not because it wasn't good, but because it was so shamefully a groping manipulation designed solely for the tastes of the Academy. I can't believe they fell for it. Scratch that. I really can. But, Kate Winslet should get it, and also probably will.

AT: Winslet has the most momentum of any of the nominees and the Academy seems to have absolutely loved "The Reader." And come on, this is her sixth nomination without any wins; she deserves it. But while Kate Winslet is great in "The Reader," she is phenomenal in "Revolutionary Road." She is emotionally rousing and hypnotizing as a suppressed housewife, who wants to escape her current life in the suburbs. If Winslet should win her first Oscar, why shouldn't it be for her better performance?

TJ: Kate Winslet will win, but Anne Hathaway should for temporarily distancing herself from "The Princess Diaries" (just in time for "Bride Wars") and letting us know that this 23-year old actress can pack a punch; for going to unglamorous depths few of her peers would; and for filling an unflattering part with moments of comedy and sympathy.

SS: Hilary Swank agreed to "The Core" after her Oscar winning performance in "Boys Don't Cry," so maybe Anne Hathaway was thinking along the same lines when she agreed to "Bride Wars."

actor in a leading role

- Richard Jenkins
The Visitor
- Frank Langella
Frost/Nixon
- Sean Penn
Milk
- Brad Pitt
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Mickey Rourke
The Wrestler

CR: If Brad Pitt wins this, he better bring his entire make-up and CG crew onstage with him. They did the brunt of the work, and deserve at least three-quarters of that statuette.

Sean Penn should win, for the physicality he imbues in his Harvey Milk, but Mickey Rourke also displayed a certain perfection of physicality in "The Wrestler." I'd be pleased with either, even more if Rourke weren't simply playing himself.

SS: Everyone likes a comeback: Mickey Rourke it is.
TJ: Rourke should take it for filling the most honest and probing character study of the year with equal parts experience and unflinching honesty; and for showing us what Rocky should have been like. Can't wait for that surely-bleeped acceptance speech.

BS: I'm guessing Mickey Rourke will complete his comeback in Oscar's underdog themed evening, and it's great to see him back. I loved him in "Diner" and I adore him as Randy "the Ram" Robinson. But honestly, can Robert Downey Jr. not get some love for "Iron Man." Sure, the movie is morally simple and has a bad finale, but does any movie this year owe such a debt to its lead? Without Downey Jr. "Iron Man" would have been a clunker. Let's give credit where credit's due.

PO: But the Academy naturally hearts biopics. Luckily, Penn is great in "Milk," so no one will look bad when he picks up his second Oscar.



MCT CAMPUS

actor in a supporting role

- Josh Brolin
Milk
- Robert Downey Jr.
Tropic Thunder
- Philip Seymour Hoffman
Doubt
- Heath Ledger
The Dark Knight
- Michael Shannon
Revolutionary Road

PO: When you look back at the year's biggest box-office smash, you realize how much crappier this movie would have been without Ledger as the Joker. The role could not have been played better. Ledger was funny, scary and sadistic in playing the Joker, and the Academy will honor him for his life's greatest accomplishment.

SS: Yes, Heath Ledger was great in "Batman," yes, the Academy gets off on giving out posthumous awards, but I think Robert Downey Jr. deserves some credit for making blackface socially acceptable-ish.

BS: Here's the gimmie for the night. Heath Ledger should and will win this award. I'm confused as to how Michael Shannon made it onto this list, since he was distractingly obvious in a mediocre movie. The rest of them were good, but who can compete against that Nurse Joker waddle?

CR: Heath is a lock. You know he died, right?

documentary feature

- The Betrayal
(Nerakhoon)
- Encounters at the End of the World
- The Garden
- Man on Wire
- Trouble the Water

PO: As silly as it is inspiring, the Academy will appreciate Philippe Petit's (of "Man on Wire") genuine eccentricities, which flowed out of the screen through his interviews and look-a-like. I'm looking forward to his acceptance speech.

CR: "Man on Wire," will win and should. What could be more fun than ballsy Frenchmen suspended hundreds of feet over New York? Unless it's Werner Herzog suspending Klaus Kinski's life.

BS: I liked "Man on Wire" and think it will win but didn't really get the awed feeling so many others claim to have felt. I'd much rather see Werner Herzog pick up this award for "Encounters at the End of the World" and go on some rant about God-knows-what. Trouble the Water is my spoiler pick here. Everyone knows the Academy cares about black people. Not like that louse of a former President.

actress in a supporting role

- Amy Adams
Doubt
- Penelope Cruz
Vicky Cristina Barcelona
- Viola Davis
Doubt
- Tarji P. Henson
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Marissa Tomei
The Wrestler

AT: Rosemarie DeWitt, the Rachel in "Rachel Getting Married," stole the spotlight away from the amazing Anne Hathaway. She was emotional and riveting, yet was somehow overlooked in nearly all of the preseason awards and was ultimately snubbed at the Oscars.

SS: In 1992, Marisa Tomei won it for "My Cousin Vinny," and she was phenomenal in "The Wrestler," so, it probably be Penelope Cruz.

PO: Cruz was strong and psychotic in Woody Allen's latest. In short, you could not take your eyes off of her.

TJ: Viola Davis will win for putting on a 12 minute acting clinic, opposite Meryl Streep, no less, and for driving the emotional heart of the film in one of the most shattering scenes of the year.

BS: I have a tingling fear that this award will be given to Penelope Cruz whom I hate with an unreasonable but intense fervor. Let's see Viola Davis take up the Oscar for reminding us all how powerful and satisfying a one scene wonder can be.

CR: I hope Davis gets really mussy when she gives her acceptance speech.

animated feature film

- Bolt
- Kung Fu Panda
- Wall-E

AT: Are we serious with this one? Basically, "Wall-E" wins, no ifs, ands, or buts.

PO: Why is "Wall-E" even in this category? Why does this category exist at all? Animation is a medium, not a genre, and having this category only invites voters to think about animated movies the other way around. If they do keep this category, just rename it to "Best Pixar Feature," because that's how it always goes. Well, unless the movie is "Cars."

CR: It's not fair to production companies putting out animated features that Pixar exists, since this is now the Pixar category. That said, I'm totally going with "Bolt" on this one.

SS: Yeah, but a project associated with Miley Cyrus project winning an Oscar would be the equivalent of Milli Vanilli's Grammy.

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