

Check **STUDLIFE.COM** for coverage of last night's dramatic mens' soccer game.

**Harold Ramis** ran out of time on Wednesday...read his concluding thoughts in **FORUM, PAGE 4**

**Watch Harold Ramis** chat with Cadenza Editor Steph Spera on video at **STUDLIFE.COM**

# STUDENT LIFE

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

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Friday, September 11, 2009

## Swine flu cases on the rise daily

Perry Stein & Sam Guzik  
Student Life Editors

The number of suspected cases of swine flu at Washington University hit four on Thursday evening, with school officials expecting the tally to increase.

Tests completed at Student Health Services (SHS) concluded that the four students have influenza A. Almost all of the influenza A virus currently circulating is thought to be novel H1N1 influenza, the virus that causes swine flu.

The University announced the campus's first suspected case of swine flu late Tuesday evening. Two more cases were announced on Wednesday and the fourth on Thursday. All of the sick students are expected to make full recoveries.

"I suspect that we will see more in the next days and

weeks," Alan Glass, director of Student Health Services, wrote in an e-mail to Student Life.

He wrote that the four suspected cases are not unexpected because "this virus has been affecting college and university students nationally with some frequency."

In late June, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a statement estimating that there had been at least 1 million cases of swine flu in the United States, most of them undiagnosed or unreported.

The affected students are currently in self-isolation in accordance with University flu protocol, which is based on recommendations by the CDC. At least two of the students live in on-campus housing.

Glass heads the University's Emerging Infectious Disease Task Force—a task force

created last spring when the swine flu epidemic first hit.

The University asks affected students to remain in their living spaces until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Thursday marked the second day that the University offered seasonal influenza vaccinations. Seventy students were immunized on Wednesday and another 90 on Thursday.

"It is extremely important for students to have flu shots this year," Glass wrote.

The University asks all students and faculty not to attend classes or work if they are feeling ill. Professors and lecturers were asked not to penalize students if they miss class for health reasons.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of seasonal flu and include fever, cough,

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"We have worked to become the most open, transparent and accessible administration in recent Student Union history."

—Jeff Nelson, SU president

## State of the Union

Michelle Merlin  
News Manager

Student Union President Jeff Nelson reiterated his administration's central message in the first-ever Campus State of the Union address Wednesday night, pledging to continue efforts to renew student activism.

Nelson stated Student Union's upcoming goals, calling on the student body to support their sports teams, make campus events greener, reduce dining lines and push for a restructuring of dining hours.

"Our student body will only remain strong if we continue to stay unified and we continue to actively seek ways to improve our experience," Nelson told a crowd of about 120 in Mudd House on the South 40.

Campus leaders representing SU, Congress of the South 40, North Side Association, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council also reported on their plans for the coming year. All the groups emphasized their efforts for increasing collaboration.

"This year we look forward to new partnerships between student groups and student leaders to make Wash. U. a more vibrant and connected community," Sackett said.

Senior Kevin Smith, president of the Interfraternity Council, announced that the fraternities on campus remain strong and trumpeted their success in community service events and in raising thousands of dollars for charity organizations.

The Women's Panhellenic Association (WPA) delivered a similar message and said the state of the organization is strong, though noting that there was room for improvement. WPA President Amanda Coppock pointed out that one goal this year is to be more organized in record keeping.

"[Sororities] provide some of the most unique leadership roles women can find on our campus," said Coppock, a senior.

Nelson emphasized greater collaboration with Greek life organizations.

"I've always felt it's a priority that we need to work with Greek life, because it's

a significant portion of campus," Nelson said. "By and large, they're unified. If we can get Greek life to support certain initiatives, we can really make things happen."

Chrystal Okonta, director of the North Side Association, emphasized the organization's goal to "form a uniquely North Side experience that's relevant for our students and the composition of our group."

Junior Hannah Bowling, speaker of the Congress of the South 40, said the group is maintaining its strong programming and will be encouraging students to venture more into St. Louis this year. Bowling also acknowledged that the construction on the South 40 may pose some difficulty for programming.

The speech was the brainchild of Nelson and senior Chase Sackett, speaker of the Senate. The two conceived the idea during the summer with the intention to display a sense of unity and provide students another opportunity to learn about what is happening on campus.

The address was met with positive reactions among those in attendance.

"It was wonderful to see so many student leaders together talking about their plans for the year and their focus on collaboration," said Mary Zabriskie, assistant vice chancellor for campus life. "It was really impressive."

SU senators also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the first State of the Union.

"I think it's really good. I was surprised we'd never done this before in the past," said sophomore Kirsten Miller, an SU senator. "We do a lot of things, but I don't think the students necessarily see that."

Junior Eliot Walker, co-chair of the Budget Committee, said the address was a good way for students to learn about the progress of initiatives forwarded by different student groups.

"I think that students get a chance to hear what the candidates are saying during elections, but they don't get a chance to hear how those initiatives have changed and are redefined," Walker said. "It gives freshmen an idea [of the initiatives], because they don't really hear [about them]."

## The Interwebs: Networking sites the future of campus communication?

Eliza Adelson  
Contributing Reporter

Poking and tweeting just turned academic.

Networking sites are becoming an essential tool for the tech-savvy professor or administrator on campuses across the nation. Washington University is no exception.

More and more staff and faculty members are using Twitter, Facebook and blogging sites to communicate with students and with each other. Departments like the Office of Residential Life have more than 200 followers on Twitter, while the University's own Facebook page has amassed 4,753 fans.

This year, the 11 campus libraries have started using Twitter to broadcast information to the student body. The University Libraries' page already has 100 followers on Twitter.

"Twitter has become widely



School departments and libraries are increasingly using social networking sites like Facebook to communicate with students.

used within universities and colleges, and we just thought it would be an interesting way to promote our services in a different medium," said Makiba J. Foster, a reference librarian for

American and African American studies.

The Twitter page was designed primarily to provide

See **INTERWEBS**, page 2

## Officials: In recession, liberal arts degrees still worth cost

Hillary Black  
Contributing Reporter

The recent scarcity of jobs for graduating college students has provoked debate over whether a liberal arts education is worth the high tuition and burden of student loans.

According to Mark Smith, director of the Washington University Career Center, pre-professional majors may be more practical than other degrees in terms of finding employment after graduation.

"If you want to go into accounting, you're not going to be able to do that without some kind of advanced degree in account-

ing," Smith said.

Catalin Roman, chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, also stressed the value of pre-professional degrees.

"Salary offers for bachelor's degrees [in computer science] are as high as \$80,000 or \$90,000," Roman said. "That's just for a bachelor's."

Despite the lack of jobs for liberal arts students in highly technical fields, Smith said that students with liberal arts degrees can still pursue a variety of careers.

"Some will go into corporations that have a training program," he said.

In addition to securing careers

immediately after graduation, liberal arts students may also enroll in graduate school.

"Typically it's around 40 percent that will go straight out, and then you'll see another third of the class will do it in one to five years," Smith said.

"The most common outcome for history majors is to go to law school," said Andrea Friedman, director of undergraduate studies for the history department.

Besides providing students with job opportunities, liberal arts majors teach students crucial skills that employers look for in job applicants.

According to Jean Allman, chair of the history department, studying history teaches skills that

are valuable in the workplace.

"You learn how to do research, you learn how to think critically, you learn how to write, you learn how to reference, you learn how to analyze, you learn how to debate—and these are things that translate to all different fields," Allman said.

"What companies are looking for is future leaders," Smith said. "People always need people to problem-solve."

Still, pursuing interdisciplinary studies puts students at an advantage when applying for jobs.

"There is a huge need for people that can cross disciplines," Roman said. "If you are an anthropologist and graduate with an A-plus GPA and you're from

a great school, you're going to have lots of opportunities, but you're going to compete with all the others.

"On the other hand, if you actually have combined that with something else that makes you distinctive, that's going to put you in a much better market position."

According to Smith, while liberal arts degrees "can be practical, there are things you can do to make your liberal arts degree even more practical."

"I would encourage a liberal arts student to think about where they might want to go in terms of a career, then think about what skills would be highly valued," he said.

Smith suggested that students build specific skill sets through coursework and extracurricular activities, while Roman emphasized that "it is very important for most people today to have a computing background."

"It is not a matter of use of computers. I use a computer the same way you do," Roman said. "But you understand the world, and you understand opportunities because of understanding what could be done."

A motivation to pursue liberal arts that is perhaps more influential than the job market is a student's personal interest in a certain field.

See **DEGREES**, page 2

# THE FLIPSIDE

## weatherforecast

Friday 11

Sunny  
High 84  
Low 62

Saturday 12

Partly Cloudy  
High 84  
Low 60

Sunday 13

Mostly Cloudy  
High 74  
Low 58

## eventcalendar

### FRIDAY 11

#### The Odd Couple

Urša's Café, 10-11 p.m.  
Washington University seniors Tim Taylor and Matt Jarvey will entertain at Urša's. Don't miss their first hip-hop show of the year!

### SATURDAY 12

#### KWUR DJ Showcase

The Gargoyle, 9 p.m.-midnight  
Come dance at the first annual KWUR DJ showcase, featuring many different music genres. This event is free for Washington University students and \$5 for non-students.

#### Dancing Who I Am

Edison Theatre, 8 p.m.  
The Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values and the Performing Arts Department have organized a dance performance to be followed by a question-and-answer session on ethnic profiling. Panelists include Ting-Ting Chang, Mary Jean Cowell, Thomas DeFrantz and others.

### SUNDAY 13

#### Catholic Student Center Freshmen Escape

10 a.m.-midnight  
Freshmen are encouraged to spend the day with the Catholic Student Center and other students at a lake house.

#### Lynn Imergoot's Memorial

Graham Chapel, 2 p.m.  
A memorial service will be held for Lynn Imergoot, the former associate director of intramural and club sports and women's tennis coach at Washington University. She led the women's tennis team to a huge success.

## newsbriefs

## Campus

### Remembering Lynn Imergoot

Washington University will remember the late athletics staffer Lynn Imergoot in a memorial service on Sunday. Lynn Imergoot, associate director of intramurals and club sports and former women's tennis coach, was killed in a car accident outside New York City on July 24. A funeral service took place for Imergoot in Livingston, N.J.  
The service will occur at 2 p.m. on Sunday in Graham Chapel. Following the hourlong memorial, a reception will take place in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. (Kelly Fahy)

## National

### Apple's Jobs appears at company event

Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, appeared at the company's invitation-only event in San Francisco on Wednesday. This was his first appearance at an Apple event since last October, when the new lineup of Macintosh computers was unveiled. Jobs was under the radar for much of 2009 due to health-related issues.  
At the event, Jobs unveiled several new products such as iTunes 9 and upgraded iPods. According to Jobs, the new iTunes store will have a cleaner layout and bigger image display. Apple also introduced the iPhone OS 3.1 for iPhone and iPod Touch users. This new upgrade will allow users to download premade ringtones for \$1.29 each.  
In addition, a new iPod lineup was unveiled featuring new Nanos with video cameras. Jobs also indicated that the prices of the music players will be cut by \$20 to as much as \$120. (Sally Wang)

## International

### Officials probing fraud in Afghan elections

The Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) is investigating fraud in the presidential election in Afghanistan. In the election, President Hamid Karzai received more than half of the votes, meaning that there does not need to be a runoff. Abdullah Abdullah, Karzai's main opponent, complained that Karzai had manipulated the election. If in the investigations the ECC discounts enough votes that Karzai has less than 50 percent of the votes, there will need to be a runoff.  
Voting fraud is already believed to have occurred in more than 600 polling stations out of approximately 25,000. In each station, 600-700 ballots were cast. Attempts of fraud include ballots that were unfolded, miscounted and had uniform markings. (Lauren Olens)

### Venezuela recognizes rebel regions of Georgia

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced that Venezuela will join Russia and Nicaragua in recognizing two rebel regions of Georgia in a meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, were recognized as independent states by Russia a year ago, following a war against Georgia over the independence of the territories.  
Political experts suggest that Venezuela recognized the regions in order to secure closer relations with Russia. In particular, Venezuela seeks to purchase arms from Russia. During the meeting, Medvedev commented that Russia is committed to "supply[ing] Venezuela with all the weapons that they request."  
Though the three nations have recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent, other countries, including the United States, do not consider the regions independent, according to the Georgian Foreign Ministry. (Kelly Fahy)

## policebeat

**TAMPERING**—Sept. 9, 2009, 12:12 a.m.  
Location: Parking Lot #2  
Summary: While on patrol, an officer found a vehicle that had been broken into. Owner reports nothing missing. Disposition: Pending.

**INVESTIGATION**—Sept. 9, 2009, 9:04 a.m.  
Location: South Brookings  
Summary: Admissions office received a disturbing e-mail from an unknown source. Disposition: Pending.

**VANDALISM**—Sept. 9, 2009, 8:15 a.m.  
Location: Knight Center  
Summary: Facilities reported several areas where flowers have been pulled from the ground in an act of vandalism. Disposition: Pending.

**LARCENY**—Sept. 9, 2009, 2:17 p.m.  
Location: Millbrook Garage  
Summary: Complainant reports the theft of both license plates from her vehicle between 8:30 a.m and 12:05 p.m. Value \$20. Disposition: Pending.

## DEGREES from page 1

"You should study what you love," Smith said. "College is a time to learn, to think, to expose yourself to new ideas. We don't know what the job market will be like in 15 years."

For the most part, students at the University are doing just that. Sophomore Greg Papakyriakou enrolled himself in the Text and Tradition program.

"I enjoy reading. I enjoy

learning about how ideas have developed and progressed," he said.

Sophomore Ella Fishman plans to declare an English major because she loves to write.

"I've considered going to law school," she said. "It's not really my passion, which is writing, but if I have to go to law school and become financially secure before I can write a novel, then so be it."

## INTERWEBS from page 1

updated information about the various services offered by the libraries, such as printing and the arrival of new collections.

"We have some alums who are following us," Foster said. "We just finished a promotion where we asked trivia questions and the first person to reply got a nice prize—a book plate. That was a nice way to recognize our followers and promote our services."

Some professors are encouraging their students to use Facebook as a classroom tool. Students in Assistant Professor of Marketing Selin Malkoc's market research course have been asked to join the course's Facebook group.

Malkoc said the purpose behind using Facebook as a tool is twofold: For one, it provides students a practical application in market research in the community. Students can also post and share findings that relate to the course material on the discussion board.

"I have had a lot of past students who already have jobs in this industry, and they want to be able to share with the new students," Malkoc said. "The current students want to always ask questions, with the older ones serving as learning tools."

Malkoc also tried Blackboard, an e-learning software that the University had used for several years in an effort to generate online discussion forums. Blackboard, however, proved inconvenient for students who wished to contribute to discussions at their leisure.

"The idea is to get people to think about the implications of what we talk about in class with their lives and to discuss this with the most ease—that's why I went back to thinking about having a Facebook group," Malkoc said. "I know that they go there regularly, and I do too."

So far, around 80 percent of the class has joined the Facebook group.

These communication venues still remain a relatively new tool for college professors and administrators, whereas most students have been using them since before entering college.

Aside from using Facebook in the traditional sense, many students are using the social networking site to promote the student groups they're involved in.

"We use Facebook to try to get it out there, but we also use it for communication for our own members," junior Stephen Bailey said of his group.

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

## Religious Directory

**St. Louis Hillel at Washington University**

**High Holidays 2009**

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Meals are kosher and provided through Wash U Dining  
\*Meals require reservation by noon the Wednesday Prior to Bon Appetit at 314-935-7098 or their website  
[http://www.diningservices.wustl.edu/mealplans\\_kosher.asp](http://www.diningservices.wustl.edu/mealplans_kosher.asp)

**Home Hospitality**  
Looking for a home away from home experience? Contact [hillel@stlouishillel.org](mailto:hillel@stlouishillel.org) to be matched with a family in St. Louis for any High Holiday. Request by Sept 14

**Rosh Hashanah In-A-Box**  
Celebrate the Jewish New Year your own way. For only \$5, Hillel will provide you with prayers for the holiday and enough apples and honey for 10 people.  
Register online by Sept 14  
[www.stlouishillel.org](http://www.stlouishillel.org)

**Guest Speakers**  
Wash U Faculty and Professors will be giving sermons at services. Speakers include Risa Zwerling, Assaf Shelig, Henry Webber, Stephanie Kurtzman, & Nancy Berg. For a schedule, visit: [www.stlouishillel.org](http://www.stlouishillel.org)

[hillel@stlouishillel.org](mailto:hillel@stlouishillel.org) \* 314-935-9040 \* 6300 Forsyth Blvd.

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Worship 10:40am  
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# Obama administration works to simplify FAFSA

David Messenger  
News Editor

For some students, paying for college just became a little bit easier. The Obama administration announced in late June its intention to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

A goal of the administration is to lighten the load of the 16 million students and their families who must collect all pertinent financial information in order to fill out the six-page financial assistance application known as the FAFSA. Depending on a student's circumstances, the paperwork can contain up to 153 individual questions.

During his presidential campaign last year, Obama promised to get rid of the FAFSA completely, an application that some say discourages students of lower-income backgrounds from applying for college.

According to some studies, there are up to 1.5 million college students who are eligible for federal Pell Grants but have not applied for financial assistance. Similar data has shown that some college students resort to private loans when they could receive better federal loans.

While the proposed changes would be a significant change in the financial aid application process, this wouldn't be the first time the FAFSA has been altered. According to Bill Witbrodt, di-

rector of financial services at Washington University, the FAFSA has undergone several gradual changes over the past few years.

"The current FAFSA we have had less questions than the one the year before, which had less questions than the one the year before that," Witbrodt said. "There has been some progress made toward simplifying it. The process can be made a lot simpler, and I'm thinking that the proposals that President Obama made should come to fruition."

In the past, the increased simplicity of the FAFSA has not caused a great change in the number of applications received by Student Financial Services.

"I think the thought behind all this is that simplifying the FAFSA will be removing one of the barriers to college access in general," Witbrodt said.

Some students and parents filling out the FAFSA, however, have complained about the length of the application.

"My parents complained about the FAFSA all the time," sophomore Vaishnavi Hariprasad said. "My dad dreads filling it out every year because it takes so long."

Even though the initiative to simplify the FAFSA is moving quickly, propositions to get rid of certain questions on the FAFSA require approval from Congress.

The Department of Education (DOE) acknowledged the problems with the current

application, noting that several questions on the FAFSA are "largely unverifiable and could penalize families for saving for college."

In January, the DOE will no longer require students from low-income families to answer questions about their financial assets that are not used to determine their eligibility for aid. In addition, the DOE will experiment with a plan that would permit the use of an applicant's IRS data to answer 18 questions about finances.

Many students look forward to a more compact FAFSA application.

"I think reforming the FAFSA is great," Hariprasad said. "I don't think the form was inherently hard to fill out, but it was definitely tedious. I think getting rid of some of those other questions is really helpful, since when I was applying to college I didn't know how to answer some of the questions."

While many believe that the increased simplicity of the FAFSA will cause more people to apply for aid, Witbrodt said it is still more important to increase college accessibility by advertising the FAFSA.

"It's not just simply the fact that the FAFSA is simpler to file," he said. "It's what kind of public relations are used to get the word out to students that the FAFSA is an easy form to complete and that financial aid is available."

# 'Windows' to Iran: Professor decodes a nation in turmoil

Rafa García Febles  
Staff Reporter

The contested Iranian presidential election this summer and its bloody aftermath radically altered how many Americans view the Middle Eastern country.

In light of the violence and unexpected displays of rebellion, many Western news sources turned to experts with an understanding of both Iran and the United States. Washington University scholar Fatemeh Keshavarz was one of those experts.

Keshavarz, a professor of Persian and comparative literature who chairs the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literature, granted interviews and commentaries to news sources, including CNN, NPR, Fox News, Democracy Now and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

But Keshavarz has been speaking publicly about Iranian culture for years—as an author, blogger and commentator who focuses on combating misperceptions about Iran and highlighting its diverse voices.

Keshavarz said her roots in Iranian and American culture make her an effective cross-cultural communicator.

"Being a student of Persian and American poetry gives me deep love, and roots, in both cultures," Keshavarz wrote in an e-mail to Student Life. "As a poet and literature specialist, I do have a vital role in the cross-cultural communication between Iranians and Americans. I show each culture the multiplicity of the voices of the other, the depth that must not be overlooked."

Keshavarz said she sees her work as a public figure as a natural extension of her work as an educator.

"I don't do [media appearances] as an activity on the side," she wrote. "I deeply believe it to be an extension of my role as an academic/educator. It is in the nature of the global culture, unfolding before us, to remove borders and to put us on each other's doorsteps."

"On one level this is tremendously exciting because it gives us unimaginable opportunities for exploration and for getting to know one another," she added.

Keshavarz has written articles for publications like the Post-Dispatch and Counterpunch since long before the election and has for years maintained a blog, Windows on Iran, that provides a multitude of voices, news and perspectives—"windows"—from Iranian sources.

"I decided instead of being frustrated with misrepresentations and the unfounded news about Iran, I should do something to counter them," Keshavarz wrote. "I received massive thank-you messages every week, and the list grew so large that I soon realized it should be converted into a blog."

Keshavarz believes her work is a necessary corrective to what she sees as the U.S. media's one-sided representation of the Iranian people.

"For a long time, the average American has had little access to news, and analysis, reflecting the complexity of the Iranian society. Until the recent post-election events in Iran, most of what we saw on TV and read in the pa-

pers portrayed Iran as a one-dimensional rather lifeless country that was interested only in religion."

Keshavarz thinks that the election coverage, which portrayed the generally young Iranian protestors as sympathetic, is helping to change that view.

"When an image gels in the popular imagination, it is really hard to undo it except by a major shake-up," Keshavarz wrote. "The good news is that this shake-up has now happened. Suddenly, the multitude of young, old, rich and poor Iranians did not seem like strangers any more. After all, they were asking for the same things we value here: freedom, democracy and change. Reading dozens of books could not have been as educational."

Keshavarz is not the only voice on campus interested in broadening the discussion about Iran. Senior Mitra Haeri, president of the Iranian Culture Society, is one of many students who has been involved in opening the communication.

"In such a complicated area [the Middle East] with such a rich culture, the history of the region is absolutely critical to understanding the issues and possibly working toward a solution," Haeri said. "The undergraduate population of Iranians and Iranian-Americans is very small in this community, but I feel like in the past few years we have made relatively large strides. Our events and film screenings are attended by non-Iranians for the most part, and I can't help but feel like this does nothing but strengthen our presence on campus."

## FLU from page 1

sore throat, body aches and headache. Some people with novel H1N1 flu have also reported vomiting and diarrhea.

The University encourages those who experience these symptoms to contact Student Health Services at 314-935-

6666.

<http://shs.wustl.edu>



## WE HEAR YOUR CONCERNS & WE ARE MAKING CHANGES

### Dining Services

Dining Services realizes that there are challenges with this year's construction on the South 40. Washington University in St. Louis will undoubtedly have an exquisite, one-of-a-kind dining facility, once the renovation is complete. However, we will have to face the challenges that the temporary space presents.

We appreciate all of your feedback and will continue to focus on improving our speed of service, hours of operation, and menu selection.

*We ask for your patience and we thank you for your understanding.*

## DINING UPDATES...

S40

### S40 UPSTAIRS DINING (temporary name)

#### BRUNCH:

- added an omelette station & carvery
- now self-serve
- begun the use of wrist bands to go through the brunch line

#### ADDITIONS:

- Pasta Bar
- Comfort Food Station featuring a carvery
- Bulk Cereal with an option to get your milk from a dispenser (an alternative to bottled milk)

### BEAR GRILL (temporary name)

#### ORDERING WILL SOON BE AS SIMPLE AS 1 2 3...

- check out your options and then order/pay the cashier when you're ready
- get your ticket and drink
- listen for your number and pick up your meal

*These changes are being made with the intent of improving the speed of our service.*

- 6 for \$6 options will also be available for times when you are in a hurry.

DUC

### WEB FOOD:

- This program is new and aimed to help with your busy schedule. Plan ahead and try ordering your meal through Web Food. It's convenient and FRESH! [WUDS.WEBFOOD.COM](http://WUDS.WEBFOOD.COM)

### CHANGE IN HOURS:

- DUC is now open an hour later (M-F, 8:30pm)

### IBBY'S:

- Daily lunch buffet • M-F | 1am-2pm • \$9.95

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Cookbook Author & Artist Mollie Katzen will be visiting WashU on **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Find her at the DUC, and don't miss the book signing at the bookstore!
- Great American Dine Out - No Kid Hungry Enjoy dinner at **lbbys Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** and help end childhood hunger in America. **10% of ALL sales will go to the cause!** [GREATAMERICANDINEOUT.ORG](http://GREATAMERICANDINEOUT.ORG)

*We want to hear your feedback! Feel free to fill out a comment card, or email us at [diningservices@wustl.edu](mailto:diningservices@wustl.edu).*

## FORUM

## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Harold Ramis: What I forgot to say

Harold Ramis  
Op-Ed Submission

As I neared the end of my Assembly [Series] speech last Wednesday evening, I glanced at the clock, realized I was running kind of long and tried to wrap it up quickly before everyone fell asleep or straggled out of Graham Chapel, leaving me alone at the podium talking to myself about myself. But in my haste to conclude, I actually forgot the two things I intended to say that might have given shape and purpose to my long, rambling exploration of post-modernism, deconstruction and existentialism.

I was doing okay, I thought, having made these points: that post-modernism devalues fine art and high culture and overvalues pop culture and mediocrity; that deconstruction confounds our understanding of ourselves and the world by suggesting that all explanations and interpretations are inherently limited, and can lead to epistemological crisis and a kind of paralyzing relativism and even nihilism that makes it difficult to say or believe anything with certainty; and, finally, that existentialism inevitably leads to alienation,

hopelessness and despair driving us to drink, smoke, overeat or attend the church, mosque or synagogue of our choice. So I felt like I gave everyone a serious headache without offering the Tylenol that I had right there in my pocket.

Here it is. In my film "Bedazzled," one of Brendan Fraser's characters offers us this: Why does the existential dilemma have to be so damn bleak? Yes, we're alone in the world, life is meaningless and death is inevitable, but is that necessarily so depressing?

It just puts the burden on us to fill our lives with joy and wonder and weirdness and adventure—whatever it is that makes our hearts pound, our minds expand and our spirits soar. And in the words of the Buddhist poet Thich Nhat Hanh, "The miracle is not to walk on water; the miracle is to walk on the green earth, dwelling deeply in the present moment, feeling truly alive."

Thanks to Barbara Rea, Henry Schvey, Pier Marton, Bill Whitaker, Gaylyn Studlar, Rob Henke, Dan Bogaty and all the wonderful students I had the pleasure to meet for sharing a beautiful day with me.

Best always,  
Harold Ramis '66

## Embracing diversity in practice

Ann Johnson  
Staff Columnist

People at Washington University talk a lot about diversity and how to foster it. I've noticed this throughout my stay here. It's safe to say that most people honestly crave the benefits diversity brings. However, if we truly want this, we need to figure out the difference between shallower multi-culturalism with its overtones of exoticism and true multi-culturalism in practice. We all have preconceptions and irrational attitudes that we either do or do not make a conscious effort to fight against. Do we apply our high-mindedness in real life?

I recently moved off campus to a block north of the Loop, which is considered to be a dangerous, poor neighborhood. It has been one of the more eye-opening things I've experienced. After only four months, my perception of it changed from a crime-ridden, imposing menace to what I'm learning more about every week—a fairly average neighborhood, full of lots of families and with excellent parks.

The preconceptions we have that aren't always challenged are the ones that are especially important to examine. For instance, everyone complains about the "Wash. U. bubble," but it doesn't seem to me like anyone ever gets very far in dissecting this elusive problem. Could it be we're approaching it wrong?

I won't use the imagery of a Wash. U. bubble anymore, because I personally think that the metaphor has become

clichéd to the point of meaninglessness. Instead of talking about this abstract idea that we can't quite pin down, why not take it apart further? What do people mean when they talk about a bubble? It means people aren't going off campus, aren't interacting with the neighborhood. So that pins it down a little—why aren't people going off campus? Why aren't they interacting with the neighborhood?

I honestly believe that, for 90 percent of people, the answer is simple—the drinking age, unfortunately, is 21 in that killjoy dimension of reality that is St. Louis minus Wash. U. And also, we are busy, either working or pretending to work. We have our own communities within Wash. U. I completely understand. Trust me.

However, I think that even beyond those very valid reasons, there is hesitancy that deserves to be examined. Think about this: The Schnucks on Olive, which is clean, well stocked, orderly, well-lit and down the street from a swimming pool, tennis courts and a bike trail, is colloquially called "Ghetto Schnucks." Why? The store isn't as big as the one in Clayton, the food is cheaper, the store is older, and it has a different clientele than what a lot of students are used to. Are these good reasons for being dismissive?

Moving into the area and using primarily Olive Schnucks for my shopping made me re-evaluate the validity of that label. It was an excellent, albeit possibly painful, way of actually challenging myself

See **JOHNSON**, page 5

## A message for William Landau and the rest of us: Think before you speak

To say that racism and ignorance are the norm at Washington University would be false. But to say that Wash. U. is free from racism and ignorance would be an even greater fallacy. Like any other place, there are instances of both overt and subtle racism within the confines of our campus. It's easy to let the picturesque buildings in which we take our liberal arts classes obscure this reality.

Recently, Dr. William Landau, a Wash. U. professor of medicine who also served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), was forced to leave the board amid controversy for using the N-word. A few semesters ago, a student's car was found in a campus parking lot with the N-word scribbled on it. The community reacted to both of these situations: In the

first instance, Landau lost his position, and in the second, students created Connect 4—a student group that works to foster dialogue among various social groups.

More disturbing than these cases, however, are instances that prompt no public response. Many students are guilty of saying nothing when racist remarks and jokes are made in casual conversation. Some of us are even guilty of uttering these offensive remarks on our own. Despite the fact that almost all Wash. U. students support equal rights for all people, it is the perpetuation of stereotypes through nonchalant comments that creates background racism in what appears to be one of the more open and forward-thinking communities in our city and state.

Wash. U. is likely no different from any other

university setting in this sense: For us, there exists a divide between theory and practice.

In our classrooms, we learn and discuss theories and practices of social integration and political liberalism. We have programs—such as African and African American Studies and American Culture Studies—that directly integrate the statistics of our surrounding communities into our studies. However, when the time comes to actively apply these lessons to our day-to-day interactions, we often forget that our nation's legacy of racism continues to infiltrate our society. Our daily actions and conversational comments often contradict what we learn in the classroom and what we know to be right.

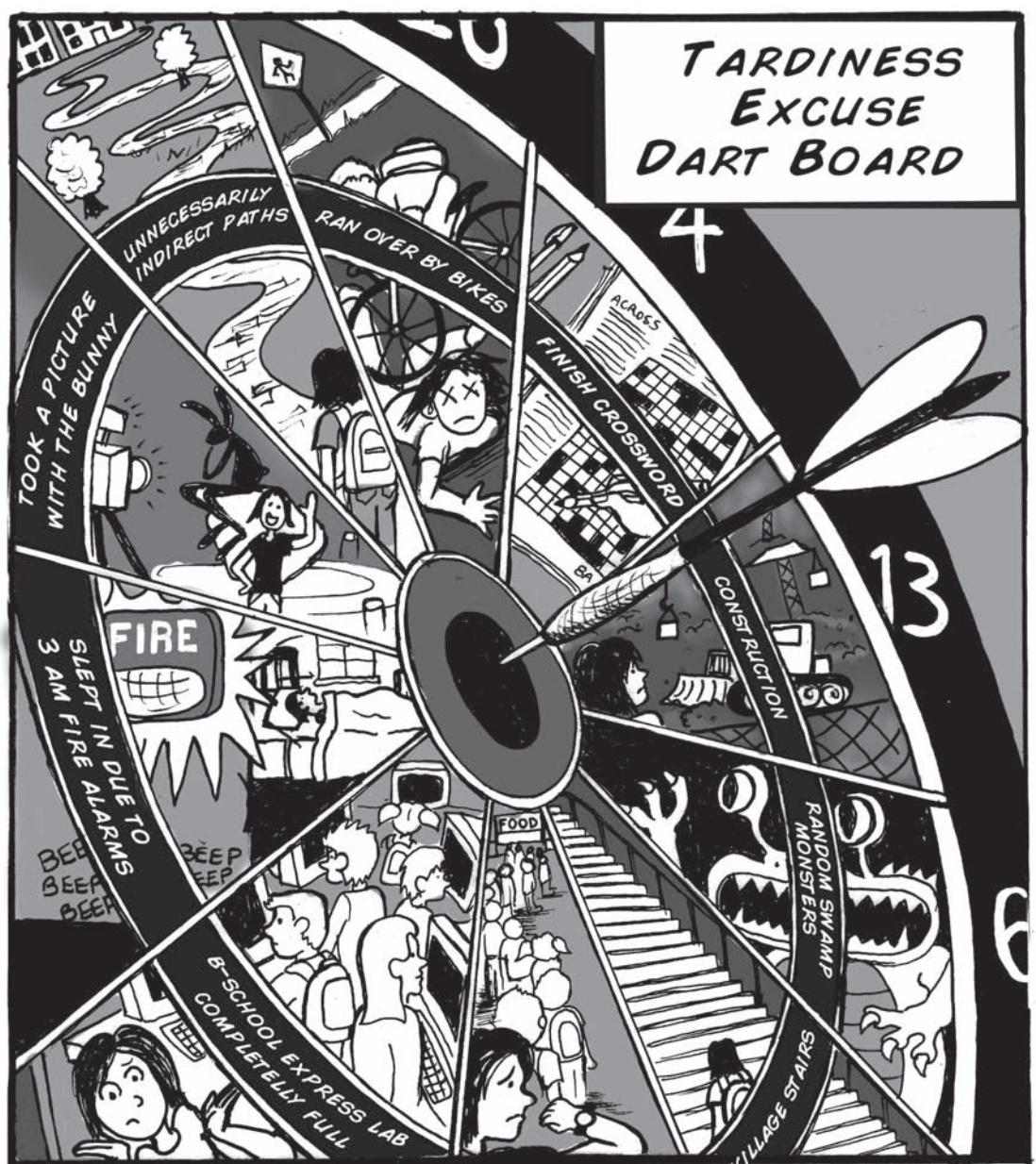
The controversy surrounding the ACLU board's dismissal of Landau has spurred the editorial board to ask ques-

tions about whether the use of the N-word is ever appropriate in our cultural landscape and whether the ACLU should be obligated to defend its use. Scholars of law and culture have long debated these questions, and we cannot—we will not—provide an answer in a 500-word editorial.

However, what we will do is encourage the community to consciously apply the lessons of the Landau case and those that we learn in our classrooms. We impel you to consider the cold facts of social stratification and turn them into warmth in everyday interaction, to be conscious of the risks of racism and the possibility that our apathy will turn to ignorance.

You, as much as anyone else, have the power to change our cultural landscape. It all comes back to that old adage: Think before you speak.

## SNOW POWERS EDITORIAL CARTOON



## Takin' it back to the old school

Charlie Low  
Staff Columnist

I'm sick of seeing "Clayco" banners all over campus. It's not that I don't think the school should be spending its well-deserved money on new and improved LEED-certified buildings and better amenities for students, but it upsets me that the concept of a campus free of roaming tractors and massive construction dinosaurs is so freakishly foreign. If I

had to wager a guess at what Donald Trump's version of "Utopia" would look like, it'd be something resembling the endless deconstruction and rebuilding that is going on all over this campus.

The South 40 House is a great example of what is grinding my gears. The place is incredible looking. It looks like the back courtyard of a hotel, or as one friend put it: the Epocot Center. To be honest, however, it looks almost too good to be stuck on a college campus, a bit alien even. The fact

that we have such an incredible building to house undergraduate students is fantastic, but in building the South 40 House, we lost a lot of history. The old Wohl center was not the prettiest building, but—correct me if I'm wrong—there weren't any gaping problems that required the immediate leveling of the building. As a community, we are now without Bear's Den, which has been the source of an avalanche of complaints, many of which have been eloquently expressed by staff columnist Randy Brach-

man in his [Sept. 9] article, "Boycott Bear's Den." As a student who no longer lives on the 40, it is not so much the lack of culinary options or length in which takes to score such delicacies, but rather the loss of tradition that bothers me.

There was one night during which a friend of mine and I quite absurdly attempted to equate the buildings of the South 40 to the solar system. Guess which hallowed institu-

See **LOW**, page 5

### YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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

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# The swine flu patient who didn't cry wolf

AJ Sundar  
Forum Editor

As AJ Sundar awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic swine—or at least that's what the media would have you think. Yes, I had a confirmed case of swine flu over this past summer, and yes, I survived the terrible disease. I didn't even get a lame congratulatory T-shirt of the sort given out after roller coaster rides. Instead, I had a fairly high fever for a night and mild cold symptoms for the remainder of the week—and this is coming from the same person who breaks out in fever at the mere mention of the word.

Of course, this isn't the first time that people have panicked over the mere mention of dire-sounding viruses, and said viruses never live up to the hype. SARS only infected just over 8,000 people in the entire world over the course of six years, and even fewer died from it. Only 3,630 were infected by the dreaded West Nile Virus, and of that only 3.4 percent of all cases were fatal, resulting in a total death count of 124. And of course, let's not forget anthrax, which, while not a virus, still managed to claim an entire five lives. To put these numbers in perspective, 90 people in the United States die from lightning strikes every year—every person terrified of these viral diseases should be at least equally terrified of thunderstorms.

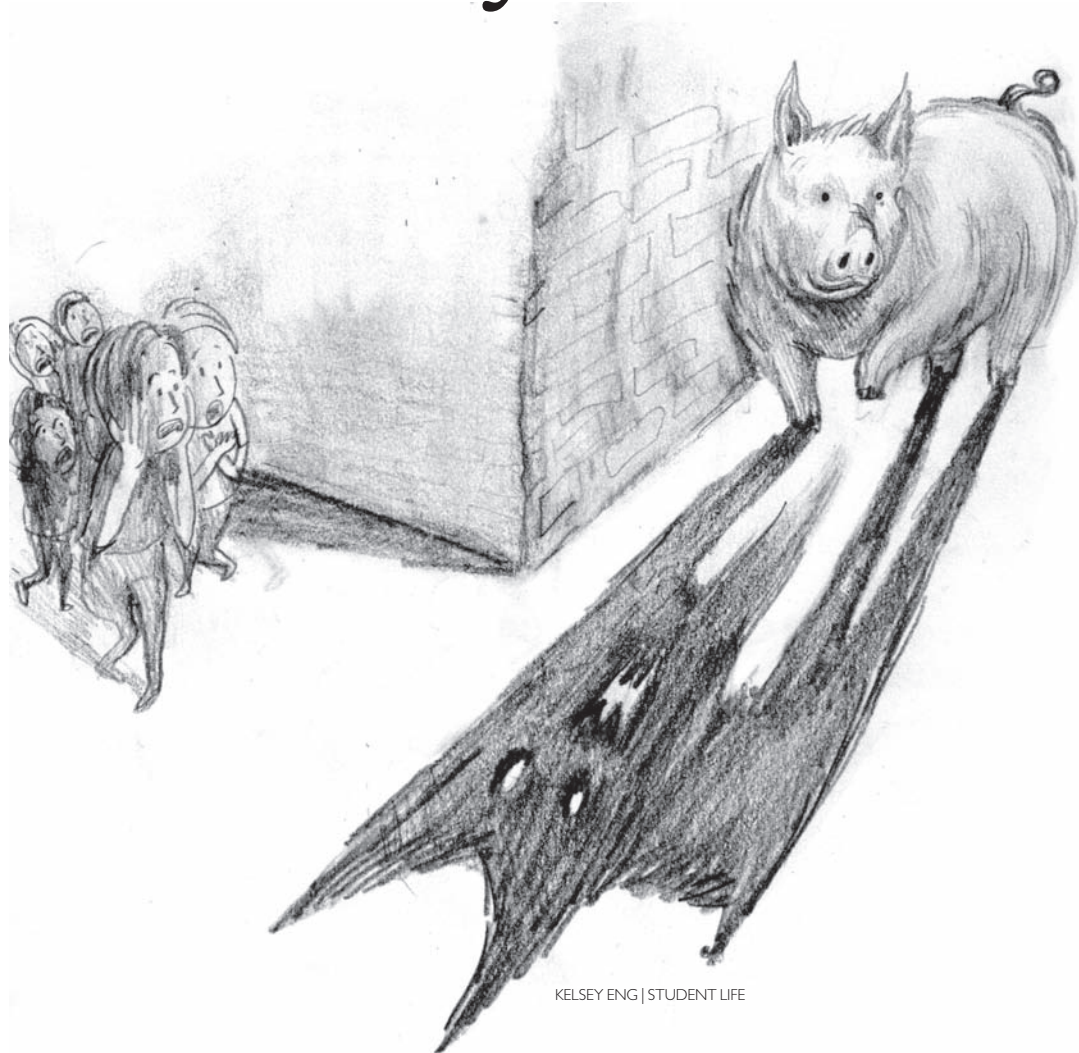
However, despite the hard facts clearly showing that these outbreaks are far from a big deal, every single year the scare stories are rolled out, and every single year people panic yet again. My faith in humanity is constantly undermined by people's mortal fear of these mild diseases, their fear triggered because they flipped on the local news and saw a scary looking pow-

der, pig, mosquito or Asian. Perhaps most disturbing of all is that this panic cycle repeats itself every year. When will we learn our lesson? Each time a panic occurs, it quickly dies down once the news passes on, and yet the terror resets itself the very next year as if this time it was somehow justified when it wasn't the year before. Ultimately, we somehow

manage to forget about the boy that cried wolf, thinking that this time the diseases really are worth fearing. It sounds so much scarier to die from something as scary sounding as "swine flu," but for every second we worry about contracting the virus, we should worry a thousand times more about entering a car—the chance of death is millions of times greater.

Once put into perspective, these panics are complete jokes, and we seem completely doomed to repeat history over and over ad infinitum. As for myself, life goes on. I still want that t-shirt though.

AJ is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a Forum Editor. He can be reached via e-mail at [asundar@wustl.edu](mailto:asundar@wustl.edu).



KELSEY ENG | STUDENT LIFE

## Artificial distance between grades prevents meaningful student mentorships

Ariana Tobin  
Staff Columnist

At this point, I judge the people waiting in line for Subway at 1:05 p.m., and I will send hostile vibes your way if you answer your cell phone on the third floor of the library. Nineteen body shots is excessive, and I have no sympathy for the Facebook friends who send me too many group invitations.

You see, I am now an upperclassman, with all the hard-earned wisdom of age at my disposal. After four semesters at Washington University, I am no longer presumed naïve. In fact, when my friends and I walked onto campus for the first time this semester, it was our turn

to cast benevolent smiles at the freshman who asked us for directions and to shake our heads at their innocence.

"They just seem so young," we said, passing a clump in the DUC. "They're so obvious." My arrogance dissolved, of course, when I confused Cupples I for Cupples II and showed up frazzled to my first 400-level class. Fortunately, I had also misread my schedule and had a solid 30-minute wait to get over the embarrassment before it actually started.

The thing is, I'm not the first to rant about look-alike buildings with the same names, and I'm sure if I looked hard, I could find someone else willing to admit to their incompetence at navigating them. I may very well be rationalizing, but I don't think I'm alone in making

freshman mistakes as a non-freshman.

Of course we grow between the beginning of our undergraduate education and the end, and of course we learn a lot along the way. What I'm wondering, however, is why this seeming gulf between freshman and senior year is a divide that keeps us from interacting? If we're still not the dignified students we imagine ourselves to be, why do we feel the need to disdain those who are less so? This actual and perceived distance between the grades is artificial, and it keeps us from developing the relationships we could really use.

Once new students get involved—say, in Greek life or Student Union—they start to meet the older grades. Residential Advisors and WUSAs

interact with their residents, and there are plenty of formal peer mentoring programs that gear up after the year starts. However, outside of these formal programs, there doesn't seem to be a casual way for the classes to connect. And if I've learned anything at Wash. U., it's that the casual advice, the kind you don't even know you need, is often also the most valuable. I've taken enough classes with the wrong professors and declared one too many ill-considered minors to know.

There's a reason they replaced the Peer Advisor program of my (oh so long ago) freshman year, but there are different systems that work for other schools. Some have students fill out forms matching them with an older peer before they even arrive, like a high

school Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Some have mentoring systems within a major—a good way to keep students engaged with both a department and campus life.

Before a University program can work, however, we need to be more open to developing these mentoring relationships on our own. While being a junior or a senior does not guarantee that a person can pass along solid advice, and it definitely doesn't qualify her as an expert, there is something to be said for experience—no matter how many mistakes we're still making.

Ariana is a junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at [arianatobin@gmail.com](mailto:arianatobin@gmail.com).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Students should be critical of trustees

Dear Editor,

I just read Peter Murrey's piece in Student Life ("Concerned about the new trustees," Aug. 28) and wanted to thank you for speaking up on the matter. It's important that students remain active and vocal in their critique of administrative policy. The Aug. 24 Forum article in question ("Recent trustee appoint-

ments demonstrate University's perspective on energy") by Kate Gaertner was disturbing on many levels. To suggest that "idealism will have to be found elsewhere" speaks volumes about the intellectual climate in the editorial board.

Andrew S. Jackson  
Systems Manager, Division of Biology

#### E-textbooks not perfect

Dear Editor,

Kate Gaertner's Aug. 31 column about electronic textbooks ("University should push for paperless textbooks") contains the sentence "Because of the frequency at which teachers change their preferred editions..."

Ms. Gaertner's tone suggests that faculty do not consider the economic impact of textbook publisher policies on students when choosing textbook editions.

Textbook publishers change editions rather frequently, in my view, to undercut the used book market. Personally, I would much rather just use the "extinct" edition of textbooks I adopt and not adopt the new edition, but I was told by the bookstore that the students would not be able to sell back their textbooks to the bookstore. I have been given grief by one local sales rep, because I let the bookstore order used textbooks and don't use ISBN numbers that are for "new only from the publisher"

versions.

In the past I used an excellent textbook that the publisher stopped updating with new editions and stopped printing additional copies. It became very difficult for the bookstore to find enough of the title to meet student enrollment.

I think that students should have the option of using electronic textbooks, if they want them. But I also think that students who prefer paper copies should have that option.

Any textbooks that students regard as "useless paper, print and cardboard" should be donated to the local YMCA book sale, Nursery Foundation book sale or not-for-profit that ships the books to Third World countries. Extinct editions are definitely not useless paper. Copies of extinct editions that I have used have been donated to local high schools and a school in South America.

Carol A. Probo, Ph.D.  
Lecturer, Earth and Planetary Sciences

#### JOHNSON from page 4

to rethink the way I see people and places. At the same time, I became more self-aware about my attitudes, some of which are subconscious. I was surprised at how radically my views changed and at how many prejudices were narrowing my options without my being aware of it.

No, University City is not 100 percent safe, but then again, you can't always have WUPD looming over your shoulders on Segways.

Besides, I'm not trying to paint it into a utopia of bliss. It is a very real area and a very foreign one to most of us. It doesn't always fit into what we are comfortable dealing with.

It's worth remembering that different ways of life don't always come packaged nicely into festivals where we can gorge ourselves on ethnic food. There is economic diversity as well as cultural diversity. Yet if one deserves respect and understanding, then the other

does too. So, go back to ghetto Schnucks—you know, the one some of you only use to buy alcohol because it's cheaper and you assume that they'll go easier on your fake, because they're somehow sketchier—and maybe notice something else about it, such as its utter normalcy.

Ann is a junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at [aejohnso@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:aejohnso@artsci.wustl.edu).

#### LOW from page 4

tion scored the position of Sun? That's right: Bear's Den. Bear's Den was a gathering place for everyone in the school. There was no other place on campus that, as a freshman or sophomore, one could so easily congregate with friends, either by chance or choice. There is now no location on campus that draws weary Wash. U. students back to the 40 at 2:30 in the morning on the weekends regardless of where they reside or what year they are in. It used to be that someone could go to Bear's Den on a Saturday night and see nearly everyone that was out that night. The place was no rival to a Jean-Georges

Vongerichten restaurant, but it had tradition and character. And honestly, the food was pretty good for a college campus.

We have now lost an aspect of our school's tradition that cannot be recovered. I feel sorry for the new students who will never have the communal experience of the old Bear's Den. As one who has, quite unhappily, visited the new multi-tiered eatery, I can confidently proclaim that the experience is not replicated, nor is it nearly as enjoyable.

While new buildings and greener facilities are great in many ways and will certainly look good in next year's

brochure, there are certain intangible aspects that get lost in endless renewal. This goes for academic change as well. At some point it is time to take a step back and be happy with what you have. I can say for myself, and I would think that many of my fellow students would agree, that I would be much happier with certain traditions and the old buildings they came with than with a shiny new façade with no substance.

Charlie is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at [chlow@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:chlow@artsci.wustl.edu).

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# CADENZA

## 'True Blood': Preparing you for the season finale



Vampires are en vogue these days, as evidenced by shows like HBO's "True Blood."

Ashley Johnson  
Cadenza Reporter

Following an extremely successful viral marketing campaign, the second season of "True Blood" premiered on June 14 to a staggering rating of 3.7 million viewers. This premiere was the most watched program on HBO since "The Sopranos" finale two years ago. Who knew a show about southern vampires could have revived the network series industry insiders had once dubbed "HB-Over"? "True Blood's" marketing campaign aimed to blur the lines between reality and fiction using co-sponsored ads of products targeting vampires. In addition, the campaign reached potential viewers through multiple Web sites, such as a vampire dating Web site and a site for the American Vampire League. The fictional beverage Tru Blood featured on the show was also marketed in order to fully immerse consumers in the experience and premise of the show.

The immense popularity of "True Blood" has been compared to the success of the similarly themed "Twilight" book series, with online voting polls to determine who is the hotter lead vampire, Bill Compton or Edward Cullen (My personal vote goes to Bill). The success of the vampire genre has triggered

other shows and trends, including the new CW show "Vampire Diaries" and the incorporation of vampire and goth-like details in new fall fashions. Despite the ever-growing success of "True Blood," however, the show still managed to get majorly snubbed by this year's Emmy Awards for its first season consideration.

"True Blood's" second season, whose finale airs this Sunday, managed to upstage its intriguing and clever first season with more supernatural characters, unpredictable alliances and juicy sex scenes. For those "True Blood" virgins, the show is set in the fictional Louisiana town of Bon Temps and imagines vampires living among humans, as they can now subsist on synthetic blood rather than making meals of human bodies.

The second season introduced a Christian cult called the Fellowship of the Sun, which runs a conversion camp that brainwashes people to hate vampires. After the vampire sheriff of Dallas goes missing, Eric (Alexander Skarsgard), the sheriff of Bon Temps, enlists the help of Sookie Stackhouse (Anna Paquin), a barmaid, telepath and girlfriend to vampire Bill (Stephen Moyer). Eric is deeply upset by the kidnapping of Godric, the sheriff, who is later found out to be Eric's maker. While in Dallas, Sookie infiltrates the Fellowship but is caught and saved

when a showdown between the Christian cult members and the vampires ensues. After the Fellowship sends a suicide bomber to a vampire party, Sookie is tricked into sucking Eric's blood to save him, which forges a carnal connection between the two.

Back in Bon Temps, Sookie's best friend Tara (Rutina Wesley) and the rest of the town become hypnotized as minions of Maryann (Michelle Forbes), an ancient Maenad who worships the god Dionysus and brings out humans' primal behavior. Maryann needs a sacrifice and demands that Sam Merlotte (Sam Trammell), who owns the town's resident bar and doubles as a secretive shape-shifter, be that sacrifice. As episode 11 ends, Bill solicits advice from the 4,000-year-old lesbian vampire queen Sophie-Anne (Evan Rachel Wood) as to how to kill Maryann; Sookie gets caught in Maryann's lair and finds a nest with a large unhatched egg; Sam goes to Eric for help in stopping Maryann, and Bill goes to coerce Sam into becoming Maryann's sacrifice.

We'll have to wait until Sunday's finale for these burning questions to be answered: Will Maryann kill Sam? What's in the egg? Will Sookie finally consummate her urges with Eric? Stay tuned for what is promised to be a blood-suckingly good season finale.

## Q&A with Harold Ramis

Stephanie Spera  
Senior Cadenza Editor

*On Wednesday night, the charismatic, intelligent, hilarious Harold Ramis started the Assembly Series on a high note. With stories about climbing the unfinished Arch, practicing Buddhism and crying during "Legally Blonde," his talk was not to be missed. Ramis was gracious enough to spend some time with Cadenza, talking about everything from living on campus to his latest film, "Year One."*

**Student Life:** What's it like being back at Washington University?

**Harold Ramis:** You know I come back enough that it's never a big surprise. There's always a new building, but the new buildings look just like the old buildings.

**SL:** I read that in high school you wanted to be a neurosurgeon, but then you came here and orgo scared you away. Is there any truth to that statement?

**HR:** Math and science scared me away. Yeah, I thought I was good, but I forgot that I never studied in high school. Organic chemistry. I never got that far. For me, zoology had enough chemistry in it that I realized this is not what I want to do. And math—I was in honors math as a freshman, and it was so hard.

**SL:** You wrote "Animal House" with Doug Kenney. But some of it was based on Zeta Beta Tau?

**HR:** Well, Doug Kenney and Chris Miller. Chris went to Dartmouth, and he coined the phrase "animal house" from my point of view. Although we used to use it here too to describe one house. We had jock house, book men, face men and then there's animal house.

**SL:** Was anything directly based on something that happened? Did you have to tone it down, play it up?

**HR:** Some things are toned down, some things from each of our experiences. Each of us had experiences that were just too lewd, crude or ridiculous to

be seen in a movie. The way we wrote the movie was we spent three months, eight hours a day, literally, in an office in Manhattan just debriefing ourselves totally on college. Every story we could remember, every interesting person we met, every funny thing that happened; each of our experiences and everything we'd ever heard from uncles, nephews, fathers and anything that we've heard apocryphal about life in a fraternity or college. So that became kind of the soup. Storyline and characters emerged, and then the movie.

**SL:** Yeah the movie was a pretty big deal.

**HR:** Yeah, I mean—I shouldn't even say this having a son in college and one in high school—but I made a strong commitment to fun. I thought more than anything, I want to enjoy myself. And that just took me down certain paths and avenues and maybe even alleys that I shouldn't have gone down. But it also freed me up to pursue mirth, just for its own sake.

**SL:** Do you have a favorite Wash. U. moment or experience?

**HR:** Oh, so many. It was our quest. But I lived in the ZBT house, which was a terribly cramped place. And I lived there for two years. And it wasn't so much the fraternity was important to me as an organization, but the people who I lived with in the house were insane. But they were smart and fun—it's a great combination. And then, just the proximity of other 19-year-olds just creates a kind of license to try things that you never would have tried before. There were funny crazy people doing funny crazy things. At the same time, at a school like this, you knew that eventually that guy is going to become a doctor or a lawyer. That was part of the payoff to "Animal House," is that everyone got a little tag at the end.

*To find about the fate of "Ghostbusters" sequel, "Year One," and Ramis' favorite young comedians, check out the rest of the interview at studlife.com.*



Harold Ramis of "Animal House" fame took time to talk with Student Life about his Washington University and film careers.

## MOVIE REVIEW:

Percy Olsen  
Movie Editor

In "9," there aren't any humans. The main characters are humanoid "stitchpunks." They fight robots. Sounds pretty basic, right? Well...yeah, it is. Or it should be. Because the problem is "9" seems scared of being minimalistic, the way the film short on which it's based was. Instead, it overstates and overemphasizes every plot twist, every motivation, every action sequence, and in the end, this makes "9" soulless.

And that's a bad thing, because when the world is ruled by machines, your protagonists have to be more than humanoid. They need to be as close to human as they can get.

The movie starts with 9, the diminutive title character, as he

leaves behind the comforts of his home, a ransacked laboratory, and enters the world outside. Or, at least what's left of it.

The earth has, for all intents and purposes, been nuked. Craters polka-dot the landscape, roofs are caved in and wrecked cars litter the unnecessary streets.

The settings are where director Shane Acker shines. In "9," he's crafted a visual world that is a treat to take in. It's gritty and full of spirit, and his characters are charming to look at, too. Every stitchpunk is made out of what looks like cuts of a burlap sack, and Acker places two shutter-like eyes on each netted face. The look is cohesive and a clever blend of working-class soul and machinery.

But, despite the film's art style, the characters only behave like robots. 9 is, to put it bluntly, a code-munching moron. When

he approaches a situation, he sees two courses of action: the right way to do things and the wrong way to do things. And without fail, he always picks the wrong way because thinking would take too much screen time.

In any other movie, 9 would be the village idiot, the one who unintentionally makes fun of himself and slips on a gooey Big Mac carton, while in the foreground, the hero punches the snot out of the bad guys.

But when you look for a leader among the other characters in "9," no one steps up. 1 is the corrupt leader machine, 7 is the acrobatic warrior apparatus, and 6 is the artsy contraption. They're all too hollow to be leaders. So you turn to the title (which is "9," for those keeping count at home), and that's when you realize that 9, that soulless blockhead with the aimless motto—"Just do it wrong"—is supposed to save the world. And that's when "9," the film, starts to fall apart.

The characters' motivations are riddled with holes, so Acker and co-writer Pamela Pettler wrap the little dudes up in these sweeping statements that are just vague enough that they can't be argued against. "Life must go on." Yeah, I suppose that's true. "I never left. You finally decided to join the fight." If you say so. "Nooooo!" Uh huh. Followed by an explosion.

The dialogue is clumsy, and that makes the actors sound awkward. Elijah Wood sounds like he's constantly second-guessing his delivery, and John C. Reilly seems like he needs his morning coffee—anything to distract himself from what he's reading.

In the end, "9" is fun to look at, but I wouldn't recommend sitting through the whole thing.

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**directed by**  
Shane Acker  
**and starring**  
Christopher Plummer, John C. Reilly, Elijah Wood, Jennifer Connelly

# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S GOLF

### Freshman phenom breaks school record

Josh Goldman  
Managing Editor

Despite losing in a playoff, freshman Hannah Buck accomplished two firsts in the two-year history of the Washington University women's golf program. Buck shot a school-low 74 (+2) at the Illinois College Lady Blues Invite to take second place overall in the tournament and lead the Bears to a third-place finish.

"I just came in hoping to contribute something...it's really cool, especially being my first time," Buck said. "Hopefully, I can even shoot lower as the year goes on."

The program made a name for itself in its inaugural season by jumping into the top 35 programs in Division III, so this season is about proving that the team deserves its ranking.

"We did a good job last year of making a name for ourselves," said senior Kris Zeschin, who has been a team captain each season. "So now we're looking to prove that we can be tough contenders and that we can be top five in these big tournaments and make a name

for ourselves as a legitimate program."

Aided by the addition of three freshmen, the Bears started the season with a fifth-place finish at the Maryville University Women's Fall Warm Up on Sept. 3, a tournament that featured Division II, III and NAIA teams. Buck and freshman Melanie Walsh each fired a 79 (+7) to finish seventh among all golfers in the rain-shortened tournament. Walsh competed as an individual, so her score did not count toward the team total.

Zeschin, junior Kathleen Pettinato, sophomore Katie Homa and senior Margaret Manning rounded out the five-woman team and shot an 83, 87, 88 and 90, respectively, to bring the team's total score to 337. The total was 20 shots higher than champion Rend Lake Community College.

With Walsh competing as part of the team on Sept. 5, Wash. U. finished a comfortable third at the Lady Blues Invite out of a 16-team field of Division III and NAIA schools. No. 8 Illinois Wesleyan University won the tournament with a score of 309, while the NAIA No. 8 William Woods Univer-

sity finished second with a 319.

In breaking the school scoring record, Buck broke Manning's school record of 75 with a 74 in the first and only round of the rain-shortened Lady Blues Invite. Buck's +2 score was tied for best in the tournament before she lost in a playoff.

Walsh shot an 82, Pettinato an 85, Zeschin an 87, and Homa a 91 to put the team's total score at 328. No. 8 Illinois Wesleyan won the tournament with a score of 209.

As on Thursday, the Bears lost a valuable low score to individual play, as Manning shot a 76, good for third place overall.

Even with the third-place finish at Illinois College, Zeschin said she is confident that the team will improve.

"We're still trying to iron out some of the kinks," Zeschin said. "It takes a little while to get into the right swing, but we're getting there. We've definitely improved each time, and hopefully in the next few tournaments we'll get to show what we have."

The team returns to action on Saturday for the first round of the Wartburg College Fall Invite in Waverly, Iowa.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

### Last-minute goal on header stuns No. 4 William Smith

Johann Qua Hiansen  
Senior Sports Editor

With 44 seconds to go, Washington University sophomore Lee Ann Felder's game-winning attempt was smothered by William Smith's goalkeeper Amanda Davis. Six seconds later, Felder and Davis watched from the ground as the ball popped loose into the air and Wash. U. junior Julie Tembunkart headed in the game winner.

Tembunkart's second career goal defeated preseason No. 4 William Smith on Sunday, snapped a two-game losing streak and gave the then-No. 8 Bears their first win of the season.

"It meant a lot to finally put away that goal for the team," Tembunkart said.

Although not officially credited in the box score, sophomore Rachel Haas' throw-in landed right in the box, giving the Bears an opportunity to score. The game could have ended differently, as an 86th minute

shot at an open Wash. U. goal was cleared by a Wash. U. defender. Felder credits sophomores Alyssa Marulli, Natalie Callaghan and senior Libby Held on their defensive efforts, despite playing the majority of the weekend's games.

Nearly 30 minutes prior, William Smith's Renee Jensen connected on a cross, putting the Herons up 1-0 in the second half. Less than a minute later, senior Caryn Rosoff dribbled the ball down the field and set up sophomore Emma Brown with a cross for a game-tying goal.

"We were keeping possession of the ball and taking it to them," Tembunkart said. "We just have to find the back of the net."

The Red and Green held a 7-4 advantage in corner kicks but trailed 6-5 in shots on goal. Freshman goalkeeper Clara Jacques had three saves in her first collegiate win.

The Bears were bouncing back from a 1-0 loss to No. 6 Johns Hopkins University. In that game, Marulli was called

for a foul after clearing the ball from the box. Johns Hopkins midfielder Natalie Held, twin sister of Libby Held, converted the penalty kick, shooting to Jacques' left. Jacques had four saves in the loss as the Bears committed 17 fouls.

The scoring problems of Wash. U. may soon be over as the Bears adjust to their 3-4-3 formation. According to Felder, the offensive unit includes herself, Rosoff and Brown, none of whom are traditionally forwards.

"We haven't become one," Felder said. "We're all saying it's coming."

No. 20 Wash. U. will host the Washington University Classic on Friday, facing No. 21 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps at 7 p.m. on Francis Field, followed by Grinnell College at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Both Felder and Tembunkart look forward to facing CMS, as last year's game featured a four-goal Wash. U. comeback within a nine-minute period.

"We're just getting better and better," Felder said.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

### Bears show claws against Billikens

Daniel Kurzner  
Sports Reporter

Despite a limited practice schedule, the Washington University women's tennis team started the season off last weekend at Saint Louis University with solid results.

"I was very happy because we only had three days of practice and everybody was excited to compete," head coach Kelly Stahlhuth said.

In the first round of the A singles flight, junior Elise Sambol outlasted Elise Nattier of South Missouri State 6-7, 6-2, 10-6, and junior Alex Cassidy advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Laura Garcia of South Missouri State.

"I definitely mixed things up," Sambol said. "I had some drop shots, I brought her into net, then lobbed her or passed her. It was different than what I usually do but definitely something that I need to do."

Meanwhile, freshman Kate

Klein erupted onto the scene to capture the B singles title, highlighted by a 6-4, 6-4 final victory over SLU's Kasia Tomalak. Klein, who defeated four Division I opponents, was named University Athletic Association Athlete of the Week. This success did not come as a big surprise to Stahlhuth.

"[Klein's] got a nice multi-dimensional game," Stahlhuth said. "She has a great demeanor, and she is a hard worker."

Often overlooked in singles tournaments, the Lady Bears registered seven back draw wins over both the A and B flights. Sophomore Natalie Tingir and senior Allison Dender each won two back draw matches before playing each other in the back draw finals. Tingir took the match 8-1.

After losing first-round matches, sophomores Luisa Errichetti and Kristen George also recorded back draw victories. When asked how she keeps her players motivated to win after tough losses, Stahlhuth took

none of the credit.

"It's something that is in tennis players," Stahlhuth said. "If there is a match, they want to win it. These girls are very self-motivated."

From the captain's perspective, Dender also offered a resilient attitude toward playing the game.

"Tennis is about 70 percent mental and 30 percent physical," Dender said. "You have good days, you have bad days, you have tough opponents. But you wake up the next morning and maybe make some adjustments to your game plan. One bad day won't change the way I approach my game."

On Friday, the team had a strong doubles tournament. Dender and Tingir won their first-round match 8-1, while Sambol and freshman Paige Madara posted an 8-4 victory. Klein and Cassidy defeated their SMS opponents, 8-6.

The Lady Bears look forward to the Washington University Invitational on Sept. 18-20.



Sophomore Lee Ann Felder blocks an Illinois Wesleyan University shot on Sept. 1. Felder set up junior Julie Tembunkart's game-winning goal against No. 4 William Smith College on Sunday.

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

#### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18					19				
20							21						
				22			23						
24	25	26	27			28				29	30	31	
32						33				34			
35						36	37			38			
39						40				41			
42						43			44	45			
						46			47				
48	49	50				51				52	53	54	55
56						57							
58						59				60			
61						62				63			

By Barry E. Silk 9/11/09

- DOWN**
- 1 Pang
  - 2 Continuous change
  - 3 Speed
  - 4 Golf's Ballesteros
  - 5 Bakery container
  - 6 Old Glory
  - 7 Sate
  - 8 Plop lead-in
  - 9 Academic conferences
  - 10 Breakwater
  - 11 Lena of "Havana"
  - 12 Soothing skin treatment
  - 13 Opposite of grant
  - 18 Watergate senator Sam
  - 19 Didn't feel well
  - 23 Canned meats
  - 24 Warm and comfy
  - 25 Family reunion attendee
  - 26 Add to the concoction
  - 27 French pronoun
  - 28 Logically sound
  - 29 Silent film star?
  - 30 Relax, slangily
  - 31 Eye shade
  - 36 Kielbasas, e.g.
  - 37 Pentagon topic

#### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 38 Auto loan letters
- 40 SeaWorld favorite
- 41 Title hero in a 1951 opera commissioned for television
- 44 Grim figure?
- 45 On deck
- 46 Ewing whose ex-wife dreamt an entire season of "Dallas"
- 48 "Imagine..."
- 49 Monte Carlo, e.g.
- 50 "Let's go!"
- 51 Monument Valley sight
- 52 Cutliss automaker
- 53 Security problem
- 54 It's a sin
- 55 Eye sore
- 57 18, 19 and 20 in a series

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

**Level:**  
 1  2  
 3  4

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

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

**SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE**

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

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# SCENE



## hotSEAMS

Men's fall fashion trends  
for every occasion

Ginika Agbim  
Scene Fashion Columnist

Fall is right around the corner, and guys, it's time you stop wearing those graphic tees from the lazy days of summer. No matter where you're going, this season's designers have thought of exactly what you need to look your best this fall.

### Formal

If you are faced with a formal dress code, try a monochromatic three-piece suit in the style of Calvin Klein or Lacoste. Ranging from gray and sleek black to teal and canary yellow, this look includes a matching silk tie and dress shirt. Not sure what tie options will be popular this fall? Designers at Bottega Veneta, DSquared, Burberry and Calvin Klein suggest that a quirky bowtie or a skinny tie, in either solid colors or prints, will suffice. What happens if the weather goes from mild to blizzard on the same day? Designer Paul Smith recommends tossing on a tartan, khaki or black-wool overcoat for warmth.

### Semi-formal

For those fall days when you're not required to dress up quite as much but still need to be looking sharp,

here are some interesting trends to try. The first is the velvet blazer. Velvet is generally a popular fabric in the fall, and designers, including Paul Smith and Marc Jacobs, made sure to incorporate it in many of their runway collections. When styling your outfit around this fabric, wear dress pants in a solid color, and skip the tie. Not a fan of blazers? Consider layering a round-neck sweater over a crisp white top for a collegiate-chic look. If color is important to you, try pairing a bold primary-colored dress shirt and colored suede dress shoes with your suit for a look inspired by designer Paul Smith.

### Casual

Let's face it; this fall you'll end up spending the majority of your time either going to classes or hanging out with friends. With that said, casual everyday clothes probably matter to you most. When it comes to casual fashion, stripes are always prevalent in the fall. But instead of the boring, thin, neutral striped sweaters you wear every year, try donning a thickly striped, bold-colored sweater, like the ones found on Marc Jacobs' runway. If simplicity is your thing, perhaps you should try a chunky knit sweater with a flattering neckline (V-

neck, turtleneck or round). Not a fan of sweaters? Not a problem. Plaid tops, which have been trendy in seasons past, can currently be found at a variety of mall stores. Need a coat? Military-style jackets in shades of army green, brown and black were seen in William Rast and DSquared's collections. To complete your everyday look, try wearing slightly destroyed fitted jeans or colored, skinny corduroy pants like the ones seen at Trovata. As for footwear, high-tops or lace-up boots in black or brown will work with any outfit.

This fall many designers place an emphasis on mixing prints and patterns, as well as textures. This includes patterns such as argyle, stripes, paisley or plaid, and textures such as cotton, silk, tweed, wool, leather and velvet. Also, leather gloves, circle scarves and beanies appeared to be the accessories of choice for the cold weather runway looks. Designers took inspiration from the 1950s and '80s when it came to creating men's sweaters and introduced color via shoes and shirts. The military trend made an appearance again this fall in dark jackets and combat boots. Hopefully you'll find at least one trend to suit you this fall.

## from GREEN to COLORFUL

Uncovering the  
mystery behind the  
DUC plate switch

Samuel Baier  
Scene Reporter

As the students, faculty and staff of Washington University settle back into their fall routines, familiar questions seep back into everyday life. How can I get from McDonnell to Seigle in under seven minutes? Is it really necessary to schedule a chemistry lecture at 8 a.m.? What am I supposed to do with my philosophy degree?

Although academic mysteries such as these rightfully occupy the forefront of students' minds, a no less perplexing question lingers on the periphery: What happened to the square green plates that were used at the Danforth University Center (DUC) last year?

When the DUC opened in the summer of 2008, all food was served on square ceramic plates with a bright green finish. They remained in service through the 2008-09 academic year but disappeared from lunch lines this fall. This year, all eat-in meals at the DUC are served on multi-colored circular plates or bowls. The new tableware is noticeably lighter than the older one.

"I liked the square plates better than the circular ones," junior Toby Emanuel said. "The heavier plates felt more professional."

Freshman Ashley Fox agreed. "I was here over the summer, and I loved the ceramic plates," she said. "They gave you that college vibe, and the weight reminded you that you needed to give them back."

The mass disappearance of green plates has slipped under the radar of many University students, even those who eat at the DUC several times a week. Sophomore Élan Stahl, who frequents the DUC between afternoon classes, said she missed

the change because she usually takes her food to go.

"The bowls look elegant," Stahl said, "but what was wrong with the old plates?"

The answer to that question, along with the current location of the old plates, remains a mystery to many Wash. U. students.

Stahl commented that she thinks "they're probably sitting in a box around campus and should be donated someplace." Fox, on the other hand, guessed that "the school crushed them up and put them in a wall somewhere," à la Jimmy Hoffa.

"The way we waste things, we probably just threw them in the garbage," Emanuel said. "Where could they have gone? That's a good question."

To get to the bottom of this mystery, *Student Life* contacted DUC Executive Chef Justin Keimon and Bon Appétit Resident District Manager Nadeem Siddiqui. According to Keimon, "The biggest complaint [about the old plates] was weight. The new ones are far lighter." He noted that the change took place during the first week of the school year, and that the smaller size of the new plates better complements standard meal portions.

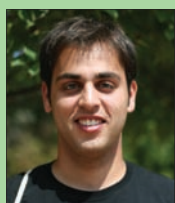
Siddiqui added that the plates "were breaking and chipping at an alarming rate, and they are quite expensive to replace. We needed to build inventory to open for fall, and we decided to make the switch to more durable and cost-efficient plates." The new plates cost around \$10,000, which is less than the replacement cost of the green plates.

So where are the old plates now? Keimon and Siddiqui indicated that they are being used for catering and are currently in reserve at Ibbey's. But there have also reportedly been sightings of the plates in the vegetarian line.

For the foreseeable future, the green plates will no longer be a part of the DUC dining experience. But rest assured—the plates are out there.

## Word on the Street

What are you calling the new dining center on the South 40?



"Everyone knows that the top part is part of SoFoHo, South 40 Hall, and the downstairs will always be Bear's Den...I don't know which part is Bear Bakery and which part is Bear Grill, it's all just Bear's Den."

— Zac Meyer, junior



"I've been calling it either upper Wohl or South 40 House Dining."

— Jackie Kading, freshman



"I've been calling it SoFoHo."

— Suzanne Mazhuvanchery, sophomore



"New Wohl."

— Pierre Boncy, junior

Compiled by Melanie Yaris



PAUL GOEDEKE | STUDENT LIFE

# Stepping Out

## House of India

8501 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63124



Kate Gallagher  
Scene Reporter

Last semester, while I was studying abroad in England, Washington University's English department required me to write an essay about how I developed as a "literary scholar." They did not, however, want to hear about my culinary experiences.

Well, it was their loss. If they had asked, I would have told them about England's amazing Indian cuisine and the fact that I may have become obsessed with a dish called chana masala.

Inevitably, my first food review back at Wash. U. brought me to a restaurant

called House of India. I decided to go out to eat with my vegetarian friend on a Sunday. It just so happens that House of India is indeed one of the only restaurants nearby that is both vegetarian and open on Sundays. (Aside from one restaurant I discovered, which is apparently run by a cult. I decided against that one.)

The restaurant had a bright and pleasant interior. Booths lined the walls, and tables with white cloths graced the center of the room. Rose and light green curtains hung around the windows, which surrounded the dining room. Matching lights hung over the booths. Upbeat Indian music played at an appropriate volume in the background.

Now on to what you really care about: the food. Every day from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., House of India holds a lunch buffet. Classic Indian dishes are offered in addition to a few unique ones you may not have tried before. They serve chicken tikka masala, chana masala, alu gobi, vegetable korma...the list goes on. The buffet was a pretty good deal, too. Without any fancy drinks (we just drank the free water), the whole buffet, which included dessert, cost \$8.75 per person.

One of the first dishes I tried, and a favorite among my friends, was a corn salad, which consisted of kernels of corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and red onions. The salad was a

refreshing, cool complement to some of the hot and spicy dishes. Another tasty, cool salad called chane-ki-chaat was made with chickpeas, potatoes, chopped cucumber and onions in a mild mint and yogurt sauce.

The warm dishes were all quite good. My favorite was probably the vegetable korma, which was made up of mixed vegetables, including diced potatoes, peas and cauliflower, in a mild curry cream sauce. The chicken tikka masala was also a hit with its tender pieces of roasted chicken breast in a creamy tomato sauce. The alu gobi was another vegetarian masterpiece, made with cauliflower, potatoes, onions and fresh tomatoes.

We also enjoyed the paneer makhni, which was both savory and satisfying. Paneer is a type of cheese made in India and has a texture comparable to tofu. The cheese was sliced into bite-sized squares and mixed in a creamy, buttery tomato sauce. The sauce was outstanding over a bed of white rice. And last but not least, they did indeed serve my beloved chana masala. This chana masala was less sweet than the one I had in England, but it was still quite good. It consisted of steamed chickpeas mixed in a sauce of fresh tomatoes and onions with a hint of ginger and garlic.

After the feast, my friends and I took a breather and then made our way back to the buf-

fet table to try the desserts. A variety of unique options were available. I tried one called jalebi. This bright orange, deep-fried treat was shaped similarly to a pretzel and was about the size of the palm of my hand. It had a crunchy texture and sweet, sugary flavor. My friends remarked that it reminded them of funnel cake, though crunchier but just as delicious.

So whether you're craving Indian cuisine, have a vegetarian diet or are simply looking for something fun and different to do for lunch, check out the House of India. You certainly won't leave disappointed, and you most definitely won't leave with an empty stomach.