



Susan Boyle's new CD, 'I Dreamed a Dream' is out. Read a review in **CADENZA, PAGE 7**

Tiger Woods deserves his privacy, says sports columnist Michael Rosengart, exclusively on **STUDLIFE.COM**

Fashion columnist Ginika Agbim explores the secret Wash. U. dress code in **SCENE, PAGE 10**



STUDENT LIFE

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

Vol. 131, No. 41

www.studlife.com

Friday, December 4, 2009

Surgical team gives patient artificial heart

Sally Wang
Staff Reporter

The Washington University cardiac surgical team at Barnes-Jewish Hospital successfully implanted an FDA-approved artificial heart in a 47-year-old patient on Oct. 27. The seven-hour-long surgery was led by Nader Moazami and assisted by I-Wen Wang.

"The operation went really well," said Moazami, surgical director of heart transplant at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and associate professor of surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine. "The patient was recuperating well in the immediate days following the surgery."

Despite the success of this heart implantation surgery, the 47-year-old patient died a week afterward due to an unexpected stroke.

"His death was definitely a shock for us," Moazami said. "He was recovering well immediately following the surgery. We were enlisting him on an intensive rehabilitation program lasting from three to six months."

It is unclear, at this point if the patient's death was directly related to the artificial heart.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital is only one of 12 hospitals throughout the United States to be certified to implant the CardioWest temporary Total Artificial Heart (TAH-t). The CardioWest TAH-t is an improvement over the Jarvik-7 Artificial Heart. It was named the number one advance in cardiovascular medicine by the American Heart Association in 2004. Barnes-Jewish Hospital was certified by SynCardia, the manufacturer of the CardioWest, approximately three years ago.

This patient is the second recipient of the CardioWest artificial heart at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The previous artificial heart implantation occurred in December 2007. Unfortunately, that patient similarly passed away due to complications

roughly seven days after the surgery.

"We are very selective in who gets the [CardioWest]," Moazami said. "The device is usually implanted in patients with severe dysfunction in both sides of the heart."

According to Moazami, the CardioWest is a means of stabilizing the patient and making him a better candidate for a real heart transplant. It is the only artificial heart suitable and appropriate for end-stage biventricular heart failures in patients. The CardioWest is able to pump up to 9.5 liters of blood per minute safely through the body.

"One of the disadvantages of the CardioWest is that a bigger operation is required compared to other devices," Moazami said. "In addition, we cannot discharge patients home."

"There are some disadvantages with this device, perhaps reflecting just the limitations of the speed with which we can translate state-of-art technologies to clinical practice," said Wang, assistant professor of surgery at the School of Medicine. "The size of the device (the implanted internal pumps) limits the size of the patients in which we can implant the TAH. In addition, the controller for the TAH is a large console and is cumbersome."

Besides CardioWest TAH-t, the cardiac surgery department at Barnes-Jewish Hospital is also qualified to permanently implant left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) in heart failure patients. In fact, it is the only group in the St. Louis area to be certified by the federal Medicare program for LVADs.

In 2009 alone, the cardiac surgical team successfully implanted four LVADs in patients.

"We have just implanted our first HeartWare left ventricular assist device as part of a bridge-to-transplant trial," Wang said. "This device is small and the moving part is magnetically suspended to reduce wear and trauma to blood cells. We also

See **HEART**, page 3

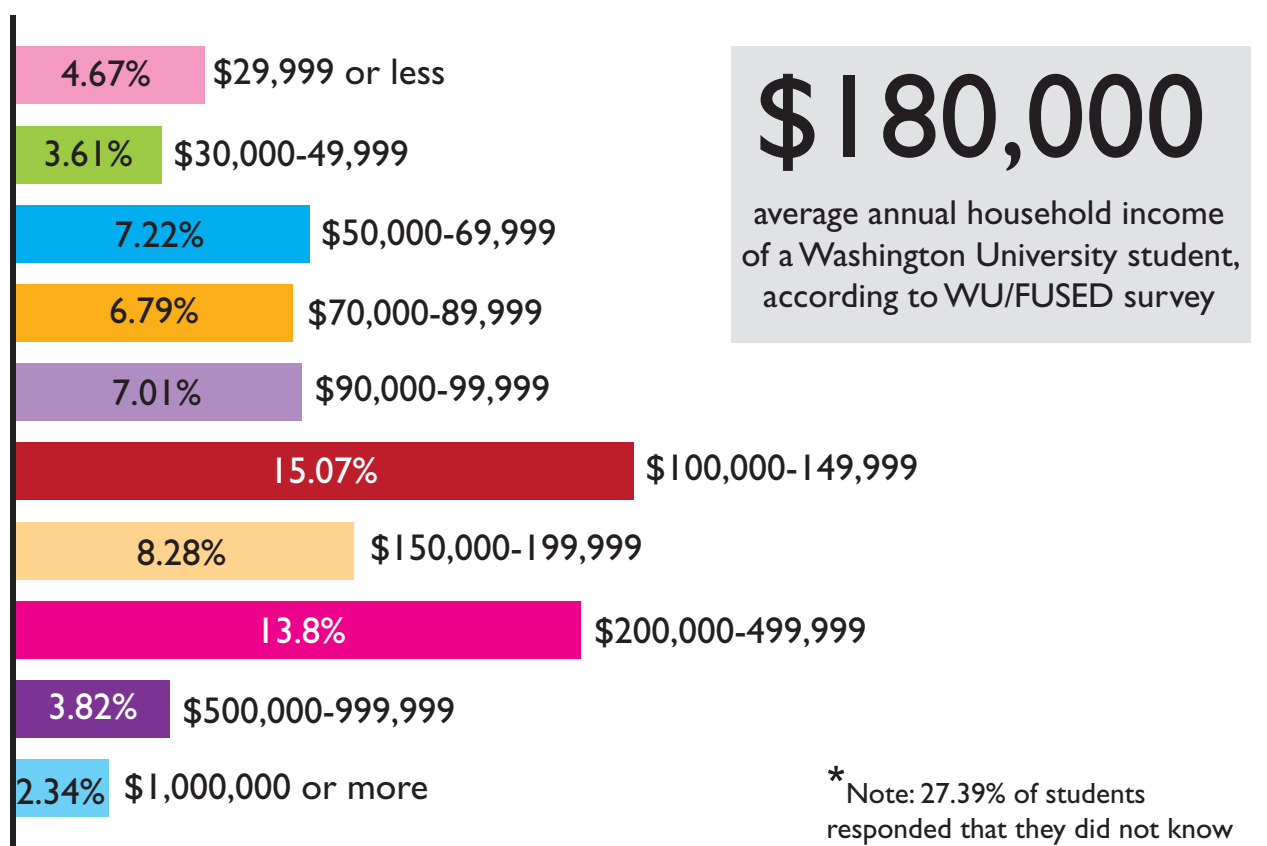


LAURIE SKRIVAN | STL. POST-DISPATCH | MCT CAMPUS

A left ventricular assist device (LVAD) rests in its case before assembly prior to the surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Feb. 9, 2009, in St. Louis. For the first time, Barnes-Jewish Hospital performed more artificial heart surgeries than heart transplants last year.

WU/FUSED student survey finds socioeconomic diversity lacking

Student responses to the question: "What is your family's expected annual income this year?""*



Source: WU/FUSED

Re-i Chin
Contributing Reporter

The average household income of a Washington University undergraduate student is around \$180,000, according to a recent survey of 520 undergraduates conducted by Washington University Students for Undergraduate Socioeconomic Diversity.

The survey also found that many University students self-identify in social classes lower than the ones in which members of the group (WU/

FUSED) classify them.

According to group co-chair senior Fernando Cutz, WU/FUSED uses U.S. Census Bureau data to define "lower class" as the 15 percent of Americans who make the least amount of money, "middle class" as the middle 70 percent, and "upper class" as the top 15 percent. Based on 2006 census data, WU/FUSED defines students from households with an income greater than \$104,000 as upper class.

By this definition, 44 percent of University students are upper class, but only 8.3

percent of students self-identify as such, according to the survey.

"This shows that socioeconomic diversity is not only severely lacking at Wash. U. as compared to our society at large (and as compared to other universities around the country), but that we as a student body aren't adequately aware of this or of our own place in this," Cutz wrote in an e-mail.

According to James Morley, associate professor of economics, comparing the average household income of University students with the national

average can be misleading. Morley said a better comparison would be between the average undergraduate household and the average household with children going to college.

"The national average covers a huge range of different types of households, including retirees, younger families," Morley said. "Typically, household income is highest—in the life-cycle sense—when people are middle-aged and when their children are around college-aged."

See **INCOME**, page 3

Team of students ventures into synthetic biology

Becca Krock
Staff Reporter

A team of students earned international recognition for their design of an efficient light-harvesting bacterium with the potential to improve biofuel production.

Ten students comprised Washington University's first-ever team to enter the premier undergraduate competition in

synthetic biology, the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM). They spent the summer working together to create a photosynthetic bacterium that would vary its productivity based on the amount of light available.

For their efforts, they came home from the annual iGEM conference, held at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology at the end of October, with a gold medal.

Synthetic biology is a blossoming field that takes advantage of the wealth of genetics and molecular biology expertise that scientists have amassed in the last few decades. The goals of synthetic biologists are to manipulate existing organisms to do new tricks or work more efficiently, or even create totally

novel organisms.

"What I like most about it was the applicability...I've done research before, but it's all been very basic science," senior Stephanie Chang said.

The tools and methods used in synthetic biology are run-of-the-mill, but the implications are major. Synthetic biology may be used to

See **BIO**, page 3

WU community weighs in on the 'Trial of the Century'

David Messenger
News Editor

Last month, the Obama administration announced that it would bring Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, to trial in a Manhattan federal courtroom.

The Obama administration's choice to move forward with a civilian trial, which was publicly announced by Attorney General Eric Holder, sparked a highly intense political debate but represented a move toward bringing enemy combatant detention to a resolution.

The trial is set to occur in a courtroom just a few blocks from the World Trade Center

site.

Mohammed and four other accused co-conspirators will be tried together. Holder intends to instruct the prosecutors handling the case to seek the death penalty for the defendants. Even though these men will be tried using the civilian system, five other detainees from Guantanamo Bay will be tried in a military tribunal.

The administration's decision received instantaneous criticism from people in the New York area, talk show hosts, congressmen and relatives of Sept. 11 victims. Those in opposition to the idea say that the suspected terrorists do not deserve access to the judicial system. In addition, many people fear the possibility of an attack during

the proceedings.

The Justice Department's decision to try these non-citizens in an American court has precedent, according to political science professor Denise Lieberman.

"Non-civilians being tried in regular courts is nothing new," Lieberman said. "The procedural rights confer regardless of who the defendant is. If you commit a crime that is subject to jurisdiction of U.S. law, you have all the same rights as any other defendant."

While enemy combatants do not have a right to a civilian trial, they do have a right to due process.

"The Supreme Court said they have the right to some

measure of judicial process," law professor Greg Magarian said.

Onlookers in the United States question why the administration chose to try these five men in civilian court, rather than in a military one. According to lawyers familiar with military tribunals, the defendants in those situations have fewer courtesies extended by the court.

"Military tribunals operate out of the court system. They are done in secret and not open to the public," Lieberman said. "The rules are all different. There is no jury of peers and there is no judge or jury like in a criminal case. They are treated like military officers. The rules

See **TRIAL**, page 8

THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Friday 4

Mostly Sunny
High 37
Low 24

Saturday 5

Sunny
High 43
Low 27

Sunday 6

Cloudy
High 43
Low 32

eventcalendar

FRIDAY 4

'Transmotion'

Edison Theatre, 8 p.m.
The Washington University Dance Theatre will feature more than three dozen student dancers in seven original works. The show debuts on Friday, and there will also be shows on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and staff, and are available from the Edison Box Office.

'Justice versus the Interest of the State'

Women's Building, Formal Lounge, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Come hear renowned scholar Mohsen Kadivar speak on the contention between justice and state interests in contemporary Shiite political thought.

WU Concert Choir's 2009 Winter Concert: 'Two of Each'

Graham Chapel, 8 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Do you like the works of Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky, Daryl Runswick, Hans Leo Hassler, and Marshall Bartholomew? Then you should hear the WU Concert Choir perform their works! The concert is free and open to the University community.

'Picture the Future': Final show

Campus Y, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Picture the Future has worked with local high school students to educate them about the beauty of photography. In this exhibition, you can see some of their pieces. See the photography and eat free cake!

SATURDAY 5

One WUPops to Rule them All

560 Music Building, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
WUPops presents a winter concert, featuring music from "The Lord of the Rings," "Indiana Jones," "Spider-Man," "Chicago" and more! This free performance is the third of WUPops' winter concerts.

Mama's Pot Roast Knighta Comedy XXXII: Children's Literature

Brown 100, 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
Join the Mama's Pot Roast Improv group for a night of laughter. The group will perform sketches loosely based on childhood classics. Tickets are \$3 if purchased in advance, or \$4 at the door.

newsbriefs

Campus

SU Senate passes resolution in support of tomato ban

Student Union Senate voted almost unanimously Wednesday night to approve a resolution in support of Bon Appétit's elimination of tomato slices and wedges from its eateries due to workers' rights issues. Senator Jake Laperruque, a senior, presented the resolution. No senators voted against the resolution, with one senator abstaining.

Bon Appétit had made an agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), who pick tomatoes in Florida. This agreement resulted in a lack of "slicer" (non-grape) tomatoes in its eateries.

The resolution commends Bon Appétit's decision to support the workers, encourages other food providers, like Aramark, to enter into a similar agreement, and urges Bon Appétit to find growers who meet the CIW's requirements as soon as possible. (Michelle Merlin)

National

Same sex marriage bill fails in N.Y. Senate

A proposed bill legalizing same sex marriage failed in the New York State Senate, making New York the 31st state to oppose the legalization of same sex marriage.

The bill fell by a vote of 38-24, with all 30 Republican senators, many of whom are from upstate New York and Long Island, voting against the bill. Gov. David Paterson, a Democrat, had made the passage of the bill one of the central points of his term.

While the New York State Senate usually does not do an up-and-down vote on controversial issues where passage is not secured, gay rights advocates began supporting a vote on the bill, so that they could know for sure which senators supported the bill. Despite many senators claiming that their votes were based on the interests of the state as a whole, recent Marist and Quinnipiac polls placed support of same sex marriage at 51 percent among New Yorkers. The issue will probably not resurface until 2011, when there will be a new state legislature. (Jack Marshall)

International

A real-life Tom Hanks movie character?

Anyone who has watched the movie "The Terminal," starring Tom Hanks as an Eastern European man denied entry into the U.S., will easily see the similarities between Hanks' character and Feng Zhenghu. In the movie, Hanks' character decided to live at John F. Kennedy International Airport until he was finally permitted to enter New York. Feng, a 55-year-old Chinese man, has been living at Toyko's Narita Airport's international arrival concourse for more than one month. The difference for Feng is not that he is denied entry into Japan, but that his homeland will not let him back in.

Feng was denied entry into China eight times, four for which he boarded planes and landed in Shanghai before Chinese immigration turned him around. The other four times, Japanese officials did not let him board the plane, stating that he would be refused entry. The reason for denying his entry into China was not given.

While living at the airport terminal, Feng staged a political protest with two T-shirts with messages written on them. In addition, Feng also Tweets and blogs about his life inside the airport. Using his mobile connection and a camera in his mobile phone, Feng updates his Twitter regularly with pictures and descriptions about his life at the terminal. Feng is determined to stay at the airport for as long as he can. (Sally Wang)

policebeat

LARCENY—Dec. 1, 2009, 10:21 a.m.

Location: LOT #40
Summary: Complainant reports the theft of vehicle license plates on Nov. 30 between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Value \$20.
Disposition: Pending.

AUTO ACCIDENT—Dec. 1, 2009, 3:51 p.m.

Location: MILLBROOK GARAGE
Summary: Two vehicles, no injuries. Disposition: Cleared.

SICK CASE—Dec. 1, 2009, 9:44 p.m.

Location: DANFORTH CAMPUS
Summary: Sick case. Disposition: Cleared.

LARCENY—Dec. 2, 2009, 11:13 a.m.

Location: LAB SCIENCES
Summary: Complainant reports the loss of their student ID and the unauthorized use afterward. TOC Nov. 17, 8:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Disposition: Pending.

INFORMATIONAL—Dec. 2, 2009, Wednesday at 12:10 p.m.

Location: NORTH BROOKINGS
Summary: Complainant reports unusual telephone calls from the same subject on a daily basis and would like the calls to stop. Officer made contact with the caller, who is not affiliated with the University, and who appears to be suffering from a mental illness.
Disposition: Pending referral to a health professional.

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\$9.98 1.5 ltr. btl. Assorted Flavors Woodbridge	\$6.17 750 ml. btl. Assorted Varieties Fetzer Valley Oaks	\$5.77 6 LNNR btl. NEW! Boulevard Pilsner
\$5.28 750 ml. btl. Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot or Shiraz Rex Goliath	<h2>Maplewood Square on Manchester</h2> <p>• PRICES GOOD THRU 1/3/10 • WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT • NO SALES TO DEALERS.</p>	

INCOME from page 1

The survey also found that while only 52 percent of students self-identify as "upper middle class," 76 percent believe the average University student falls under this category.

In other words, many students self-identify in a class lower than the one they perceive to be the average social class of University students.

The survey was conducted using the online survey tool StudentVoice. Students were recruited for the survey through e-mails sent out to the student body by class presidents.

The survey drew roughly 60 percent female and 40 percent male respondents from all four years, with about 25 percent sophomores and seniors, 33 percent freshmen and 17 percent juniors. Respondents were given the opportunity to check multiple ethnicities in the survey, and out of 520 responses, the students identified as 65 percent white/Caucasian, 13 percent Asian, 9 percent black/African American and 5 percent Hispanic.

WU/FUSED members on socioeconomic diversity
Members of WU/FUSED say they want to stimulate conversations about socioeconomic diversity on campus.

"I think that 'socioeconomic

is sometimes a taboo to talk about anywhere, and so the issue of socioeconomic diversity is not touched by the administration and by the students, but it is a very important aspect of diversity," said sophomore Kirsten Miller, a WU/FUSED member.

Some suggest that the University's steep tuition label deters students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds from applying.

"The sticker shock is something that scares students a lot," said senior Chase Sackett, co-chair of WU/FUSED. "But for most of these private institutions like Washington University, it is actually cheaper for the average student to attend one of these schools because of the financial aid, which students are often not aware of."

In an effort to increase socioeconomic diversity at the University, WU/FUSED plans to educate high school students about financial options and work with organizations such as Student Financial Services to make the University seem more welcoming to these students.

"By making it comfortable enough an institution that they can come and ask questions and actually apply, that's the first step to actually increase socioeconomic

diversity on campus," said sophomore Betel Ezaz, WU/FUSED member.

Beyond targeting students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, WU/FUSED also aspires to raise awareness about socioeconomic diversity among the entire student body.

In addition to conducting the survey, WU/FUSED will connect

with cultural, religious and international student groups and service groups such as Lock & Chain, Alpha Phi Omega and Each One Teach One to promote awareness about socioeconomic diversity.

"Our goal is really to reach out to other groups and try to co-sponsor events so that we are reaching a broader segment of our campus than us by ourselves can reach,"

Cutz said.

With many future plans ahead, WU/FUSED shares the inspiration for and the importance of their endeavor.

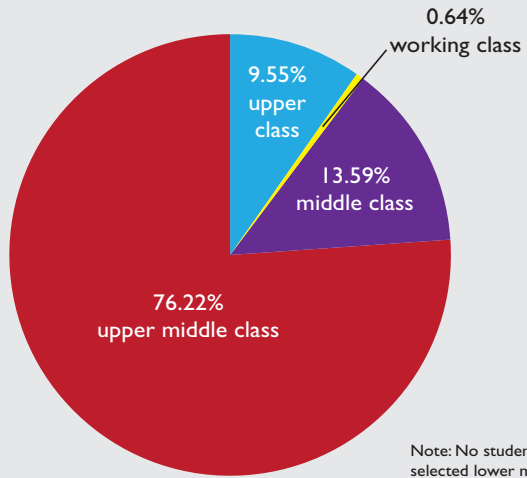
"Sometimes it is hard to make people care about an issue, but the first step is to make sure that they are aware," Ezaz said. "Awareness can pique interest and start the conversation we need on

campus."

Morley supports the efforts of WU/FUSED, saying: "There is a danger of too little diversity; college can become a bubble where people don't see the full extent of the economic struggles that the broader population is going through, especially at a time like now with the recent severe economic recession."

Responses to WU/FUSED survey questions

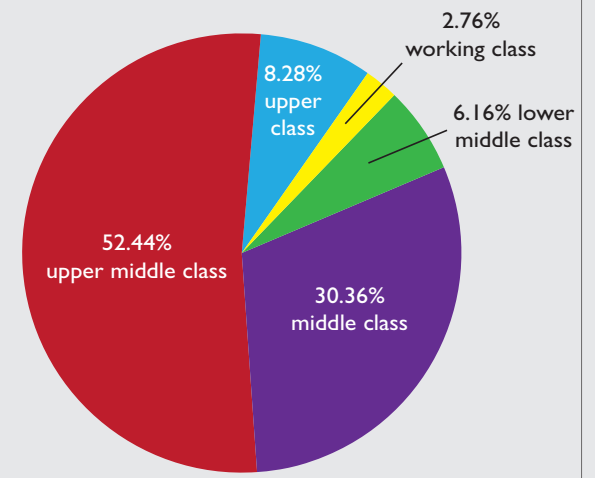
In which of these categories do you think the average Wash.U. student falls under?



Source: WU/FUSED

Note: No students selected lower middle class as a category

If you had to choose, in which of these categories would you place yourself?



Source: WU/FUSED

BRITTANY MEYER | STUDENT LIFE

BIO from page 1

produce biofuels and medicines, but in theory, it could also be used to make more potent biological weapons.

Current applications range from the efficient sunlight harvester the iGEM team is creating, to entirely new organisms, such as the synthetic bacterial genome designed by J. Craig Venter in 2006.

Senior Jacob Rubens, a biology major, initiated the project while he was doing research in the laboratory of biology professor Robert Blankenship.

"I really want to study this stuff in grad school, and I didn't really have a name for my interests...until I discovered synthetic biology, so iGEM really presented me

with the opportunity to really go farther with that and try my hand at bioengineering," Rubens said.

Other team members are biology majors and biomedical and chemical engineering students. Blankenship advised the students, along with professors Yinjie Tang and Chris Kirmaier, as well as several graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

The team started out with the goal of doing something with bioenergy applications and a library of genetic parts at their disposal.

"We decided to work with an organism that is relatively simple, *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. And that was a bit of a challenge for us because it has never been worked with

before in synthetic biology or iGEM," Rubens said.

Their project depended on the fact that many photosynthetic bacteria and algae put out light-harvesting antennae to collect sunlight more efficiently. These organisms have evolved to grow large antennae, but this is actually a problem for humans who want to use them to make biofuels: in low light, the antennae are longer than they need to be, so some cells absorb more light than they can turn into energy, resulting in lower efficiency overall.

Other researchers have tried to solve this problem by making cells with smaller antennae. But the iGEM team thought they could do better. They designed a set of genes

that would allow bacteria to expand and retract their antennae according to how much light is available.

They are the first people ever to do so, according to Blankenship.

"The thing I thought was unique, and that was the brainchild of the iGEM team, was the fact that they were engineering in this dynamic response," Blankenship said. "I don't know of any scientists doing anything quite like that."

To accomplish this, they relied on the Registry of Standard Biological Parts, a catalogue of gene sequences with known functions, or "biological Lego pieces," that they could mix and match with standard techniques, Chang

said. The parts they cobbled together constitute a genetic machine. Any cell expressing this DNA sequence would respond to high levels of light by building a larger light-harvesting antenna.

Their project is still underway, and they are hoping to publish a paper with their results in the future.

The bacterium they chose is not used in commercial biofuel research and development, but they took advantage of its simplicity to show that their idea works. In the future, people could adapt their genetic construct to work in other species.

Sigma Aldrich and the Office of Undergraduate Research sponsored the team.

HEART from page 1

implant temporary ventricular assist devices such as the TandemHeart, Impella and CentriMag devices."

The cardiothoracic surgery department at Barnes-Jewish Hospital is among the highest ranked in the nation. The U.S. News & World Report ranked it as the 12th best heart and heart surgery hospital in the country in 2009. It is one of the few elite departments around the country that provides the full spectrum of cardiac surgical services.

Since 1985, the Washington University surgeons at Barnes-Jewish Hospital have performed more than 500 heart transplants. More than 20 years later, almost half of these patients are still alive.

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Coming to the homestretch

Alissa Rotblatt
Staff Columnist

It's about that time again. We've filled up on mashed potatoes and family. The two-week stretch before winter break is upon us. A typical Wash. U. student might approach finals in one of three ways. The first is to throw herself into studying—cramming after class, working before class, making note cards in bed, dreaming of chemistry equations, rehearsing vocab in the shower. Then there's the classic work-hard, play-hard approach. This student will slave over textbooks until the clock hits 8 p.m. on Thursday night and then rewards for daytime discipline will be rampant on Morgan Street. The third option, of course, is to give up.

The daunting task of completing five finals in five days is just too much for some. And because deep breathing exercises and the occasional 20-minute workout don't always do the trick, the stress of finals pushes a generally diligent student over the edge. So, instead of lecturing you on the already well-known ways to prevent non-preventable stress, let's just assume you're past the point of no return.

During finals, stress is not some abstract, indefinable concept; rather, it is a way of life. Finals stress is jolts of caffeine when your body is begging for sleep. It is late nights turning into early mornings at Whispers café and 12 incoherent typed pages of a research paper that no longer makes any sense. The stress that comes with these next two weeks isn't as scientifically precise as MedicineNet's definition of "powerful neurochemicals and hormones that

prepare us for action"—no, our stress is messy, and real and so very familiar.

For many at Wash. U., the quickened heart rate and nausea that come with approaching finals are feared more than the finals themselves. Effort is wasted worrying about anxiety, and comparatively less time is spent preparing for the exams and papers that determine our GPAs. Yes, finals have disproportionate weight when balanced with the constancy of work throughout the semester. And yes, one slip-up now has destructive potential when it comes to our tentative grades. That's all the more reason to use stress to our advantage.

Eliminating it is impossible. Fighting it is futile. And as for running from it, well, we all know what comes with procrastination. So, why not accept it? I'll be the first to admit that my finals track record isn't exactly impeccable. But close bouts with option number three are things of the past. How can a student resist the urge to give in to the overwhelming nature of finals? The answer is alarmingly simple. Accept stress for what it is—a motivator.

It might make you sick and shaky, but if you decide the headache is worth the A, stress this week can be the very thing that makes the end of December that much more enjoyable. The best winter break is the one that follows a week of finals hell. So embrace your miserable self for the rest of the semester, and the home-cooked meals of the holidays will taste that much sweeter.

Alissa is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail ararotbla@artsci.wustl.edu.

Exposed in the spotlight

Aditya Sarvesh
Forum Editor

With the recent exposure of Tiger Woods' marital issues, we ought to question the influence of the media in the private lives of sports figures. The Tiger Woods scandal has simply gotten out of hand and is a clear representation of the media meddling in celebrities' lives in order to increase their viewer base. This is not the first case where sports figures are destroyed in the public eye through the media's lens, however. Therefore, should we question the media or question our placement of sports stars on pedestals?

Here at Wash. U., we do not fully comprehend the spotlight that sports stars receive. For example, imagine you went to the University of Florida and had a class with Tim Tebow (UF's star quarterback). The amount of press and attention that he would get would probably drive many fellow classmates and peers insane. Yet, every Sunday morning, thousands of people wake up to turn on SportsCenter and hope to get a glimpse of their favorite player's personal life. Why do we have double

standards where we wish to keep our lives private, yet we want to know what Tom Brady's wife was wearing at a party?

Remember Michael Phelps and his fall from grace due to his marijuana use? Media all over the world had a field day tarnishing the amazing athlete's clean record. The most intriguing shift in the world of sports, however, was the federal government's involvement in sports regulation. When Mark McGwire had to attend U.S. Senate hearings regarding his steroid use, the world was shocked. Why did the government ever see a need to put aside the hundreds of pressing issues like debt, terrorism and the economy to intensely question a man about his drug abuse? This is just another sign of the media and the federal government growing too large and powerful, addressing their own needs while forgetting about the needs of the public.

The real issue behind the Tiger scandals and the Barry Bonds fiasco is that, as American sports fans, we put great athletes on impossible pedestals and expect them to be perfect sportsmen on and off the field. But the moment someone has an affair (or is

See SARVESH, page 5

Like it or not, students had no say on tomato ban

Two weeks ago, Bon Appétit announced that it would stop serving tomato wedges and slices on campus. This policy change was enacted due to an agreement that Bon Appétit's national management signed with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, which represents tomato pickers in Florida. Since the tomato ban was announced, students have commented—both in these editorial pages and elsewhere—about its righteousness and efficacy.

We feel that the dialogue sparked by the ban raises broader questions about having Bon Appétit as the sole food provider (with the exception of Subway) for which undergraduates can use their meal points. One of the primary complaints voiced by upset students is that the decision—though supported since its inception by Students for Fair Trade and others whose politics align with it—did not take into account students' viewpoints. But how could it? After all, Bon Appétit serves

more than 400 locations in 29 states. Wash. U. students form a minuscule portion of its customers. Though Dining Services has been incredibly responsive to student input this year, there is no way for students to influence national Bon Appétit policy.

It's worth noting that the ban is public by design: Bon Appétit has built into its brand an ethos of environmental responsibility and social consciousness, from its local "Farm to Fork" initiative to its adoption of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch guidelines for sustainable seafood. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a powerful alliance that has previously won concessions from Taco Bell and McDonald's, and Bon Appétit's support of the CIW—whatever its implications for fair trade—represents an immense public relations victory. And—at least on this campus—the tomato ban is only a minor risk, since students often don't have the option of not eating Bon Appétit food.

There are numerous issues of fair trade and employee rights involved in the provenance of almost every food—especially those we import—and tomatoes represent only a small aspect of the larger questions involving food and social justice. The burden for deciding which foods are socially just to eat still largely lies with the consumer. For example, many consider eating meat to be socially unjust due to the state of factory farms in America, but a Bon Appétit ban on serving meat is hardly feasible, especially as the company is the food provider for an entire campus.

Not eating tomatoes, though, isn't a lifestyle change in the way that vegetarianism is, and given that grape tomatoes are still available, the ban's implementation might not rattle you—in fact, you may even support its ideals. Student Union, for its part, symbolically passed a resolution praising Bon Appétit for its decision to "only purchase tomatoes from providers

who meet this standard of fair conduct regarding workers." To the extent that such a resolution reflects the greater opinion of students, SU is right to pass it.

What we eat forms a big part of our lives, and the diets of students who have mandatory meal plans are necessarily centered on Bon Appétit offerings. Ideally, we'd have a choice whether or not to support this ban, in the form of purchasing power. Were we able to spend our meal points at any of the many eateries around campus besides Subway, we'd be able to opt into or out of this policy as we personally saw fit. Such a de-monopolization of meal points has been achieved by several of our peer institutions, and perhaps it's time for our University to consider rethinking its policy. And while we are well aware that no such decision will be enacted with Bon Appétit's contract still in place, we lament that we have no say in such issues, regardless.

DON WRIGHT MCT CAMPUS



Young Americans for Liberty: Too inflammatory to be persuasive

Sneha Thakur
Staff Columnist

Young Americans for Liberty is a student group on campus that claims to work toward providing a venue where people who hold different beliefs and ideologies can come together, express their opinions and agree to disagree. In the group's apparent acceptance of such a wide variety of political opinions, however, the organization seems to have no coherent, focused or palpable direction.

The most obvious example of the group's lack of coherence was the gulag display it constructed before Thanksgiving break. The exhibition was frankly distasteful. It is understandable that Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) aimed to make its audience uncomfortable and thereby

question the "socialism" and "communism" that it claims are invading this country, but the display went too far. While it's great that the group wanted to educate the student body about the horrors of communism in the Soviet Union, the group's main purpose seems to have been to bring attention to itself, which it effectively did. The fake blood oozing from students' painted gashes as they stared zombie-like from inside the wired barricades was eye-catching because it was so inappropriate and bizarre, particularly when the conditions were supposed to parallel the state of this country under the current administration.

There is an important distinction that must be noted. All student groups are free to hold and express their own opinions, and YAL is certainly admirable for promoting dissent among its members, as it

claims. The trouble, however, lies with the way in which members of YAL have gone about expressing their opinions. Rather than holding educated and well-researched events, YAL's programming seems mostly inflammatory, aimed to provoke a heated response from the public. Dirk Doebler, the group's president, states the organization's main goal is "to win students over while also showing the student body the superiority of capitalism over socialism, liberty over government intervention [and] the importance of preserving our civil rights." What YAL has most successfully accomplished, however, is a characterization of itself as a reactionary, disgruntled group that grossly skews and hyperbolizes reality.

Although the group claims to pride itself on accepting and even encouraging diverse and conflicting viewpoints,

it is quick to criticize those who disagree with what the group does. The Web site for the Washington University chapter of the national organization devotes most of its content to applauding the great "success" of the group's events and the rest of its space to not-so-subtly criticizing people who do not buy into YAL's claims, such as members of Students for Fair Trade and the officials from Event Services who shut down the gulag display.

Furthermore, a group member is quoted on their Web site saying, "I guess the students at Washington University were in a gulag all along, and the administration proved it through their stifling of free speech." This metaphor is absolutely ludicrous. Gulags were penal labor camps used by the Soviet Union where

See THAKUR, page 5

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Ruminations on Facebook and Texts From Last Night

Charlie Low
Staff Columnist

As finals approach and my brain stews in its own juices, I have been ruminating on the fusion between Texts From Last Night and Facebook. The merger is purely unofficial, and Facebook has made no attempt to incorporate TFLN into its massive social stratosphere. I have wasted many mindless hours perusing the Web sites' pages in an attempt to escape the clutches of my academically-burdened reality.

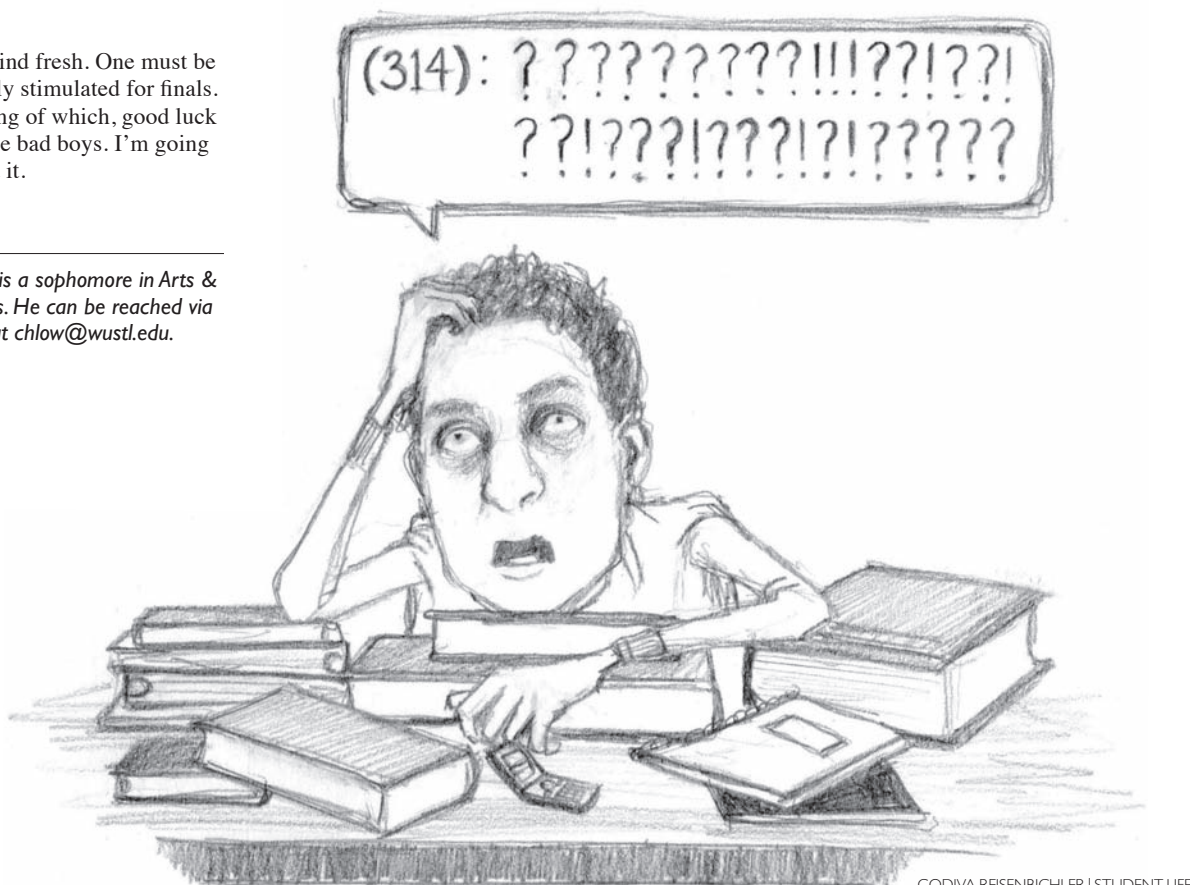
Texts From Last Night, as it stands alone, is a hilarious amalgam of ridiculous comments from those who choose to publicly display their debauchery. The key here, however, is that Texts From Last Night is faceless, except for an area code. Many of these "texts" are probably made up as well.

The trend that I have noticed is that Facebookers have started posting said funny texts on each other's walls in an attempt, I would assume, to associate with whatever was posted. I question this behavior not out of some moral opposition to outlandish behavior, or to the publication of it anonymously. I simply wonder why one would choose to associate their name and face to behaviors that are anonymous on another Web site because they are shockingly inappropriate.

If you want to go out and behave raucously, I'd be quite hypocritical if I told you not to. I just don't think an entire online community needs to know exactly what kind of tomfoolery you choose to identify with. The friends who accompany you on your nightly adventures are enough of an audience. Keep on procrastinating by living vicariously through text messages though—it keeps

your mind fresh. One must be mentally stimulated for finals. Speaking of which, good luck on those bad boys. I'm going to need it.

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



GODIVA REISENBICHLER | STUDENT LIFE

Hey! Feds! Get off of my cloud!

Phil Christofanelli
Staff Columnist

All over the country, legislatures have been passing resolutions that affirm their state's sovereignty under the 10th Amendment. Since the beginning of 2009, such resolutions have been introduced in more than 35 states. Nearly half of those introduced go on to pass the legislature. Given this recent trend, it appears the United States is enjoying a rebirth of federalism that could define the future of inter-governmental relations.

What is a state sovereignty resolution, you ask? The typical state sovereignty resolution begins by a recitation of the 10th Amendment—the idea being that members of Congress must have forgotten it. Then, the resolutions go on to declare that the Federal government has overstepped its boundaries and should immediately cease and desist any action that is not explicitly delegated to them by the Constitution. The resolutions also call for an end to all federal mandates that are tied to funding.

These resolutions do not carry the force of law, but rather are used to convey the sense of the legislature. Following passage, copies are sent

to the president, vice president, all congressional leaders and the governors and legislatures of every state, all of whom, no doubt, diligently read them, change their behavior and respond with letters of gratification for the legislatures' initiative.

Despite being a boon to the U.S. Postal Service, these resolutions should be considered the first step in the process of states asserting their right to govern themselves. Over the past century, the federal government has found a way to insert its grubby fingers into state policy at every available opportunity. From No Child Left Behind to REAL ID (the nationalization of driver's licenses) to mandates that determine the age at which one can legally drink and the speed at which one can drive on a state's road, the federal government seems to be under the impression that their constitutional mandate extends to every conceivable action in the course of a human's life.

One might say that the interstate commerce clause is justification for all federal intervention. Interpretation of the interstate commerce clause, however, has descended into the realm of the ridiculous. Take, for instance, the story of Roscoe Filburn, a farmer who grew wheat for his own farm and for sale to locals for home

use. Filburn was fined for growing more than his quota of wheat under a federal law dictating the amount of wheat an individual could produce. In 1942, the Supreme Court ruled in *Wickard v. Filburn* that Congress was justified in its regulation because Filburn's wheat could have been sold on the open market and thereby potentially depress the price of wheat.

Such interpretations of the federal government's authority could not possibly have been anticipated by the Framers of the Constitution. It seems that nearly 70 years after Filburn, some states have finally had enough of federal meddling in areas that are clearly in a state's jurisdiction. As the authors of state sovereignty resolutions convene to plot their next move, it is unclear what the future of the sovereignty movement will be. Could several states band together, nullify a federal law and spark a Supreme Court case that could define our modern understanding of the federalist relationship? Given the fervor of state sovereignty supporters, the possibility is very real.

Phil is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at pchristofanelli@hotmail.com.

Mariana Oliver
Op-Ed Submission

If we were to calculate our age by the amount of stress we endure as Wash. U. students, how old would we really be? I ask this because I often forget that I go to school with people who are (at most) only 23 years old. We walk around attached to our cell phones or BlackBerrys, and even when we are with friends, we are obsessively checking our e-mails. Who knew we were so important?

Between all of your planning and organizing and leading and, oh yeah, classes, when was the last time you took the time to sit down and really talk to someone? By this I mean that you had a conversation without once checking your cell phone, watch or e-mail.

We got into this school because we are driven and motivated and, as a friend once put it, always looking ahead instead of around. But at what point does this self-driven motivation become unhealthy? I can't remember the last time I took the time to ask someone what his or her interests were. The questions here always involve what we do rather than who we are—oftentimes, the first question

A Wash. U. reality check

we hear from a new acquaintance is, "What's your major?"

Unfortunately—or fortunately, perhaps—our majors cannot neatly summarize our passions. We all have way too many interests—interests that don't always fit neatly into our coursework. Making and revising my own versions of AFI's top films is not a major, and yet it is an activity that I genuinely enjoy. I was very taken aback the other day when, standing in line to get food, a friend asked me what I wanted to do. At first I didn't understand the question, and thought he was asking about my schedule for next semester. But that wasn't the case: He was referring to what I was actually interested in. Perhaps we don't create enough opportunities to have those sorts of conversations—the kinds of conversations that address our real interests as opposed to those regarding classes we feel ambivalence toward and often disdain toward by mid-semester.

Beyond being so busy that we have put time limits on our conversations, many of us have also—possibly without being aware of it—given up certain hobbies that played a significant role in our lives before college. The examples are endless, from playing Frisbee golf to cooking to attending mass. I find that as

I go through college I create less time and more excuses for why I can't sit down and watch a movie for fun, or pick up my guitar (which is probably horribly out of tune) and play a few chords.

Eduardo Galeano, author of "Open Veins of Latin America," pinpoints this sentiment when he says, "I love these places where we may have time to lose time. It is a luxury in this world." Perhaps "these places" seem so rare only because we choose not to prioritize them; we have somehow forgotten how necessary and even healthy it is to make some time for those things we have deemed luxuries.

The education we are getting at Wash. U. is phenomenal, and I feel very lucky to be here, but at the same time I want to be reminded of reality every once in a while—a reality that is not all about grades. We don't necessarily have to create or join a club in order to do the things we like: Sometimes a lack of structure or organization can be a breath of fresh air when the way we lead life at school is all about self-imposed order.

Mariana is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at oliver.mariana89@gmail.com.

Swiss decision to ban minarets will accelerate tensions

Kevin Lin
Op-Ed Submission

Recently, Switzerland made the decision to ban minarets, which are towers associated with Muslim mosques. Fifty-seven percent of Switzerland's voters, as well as 22 out of 26 cantons (the Swiss equivalent of a province) voted for the ban, which was proposed by the Swiss People's Party. This is a major step backward for a nation that supposedly prides itself on its liberalism and commitment to secularism, and a major setback to freedom everywhere.

The argument is that Islam is a dangerous religion and is thus incompatible with the Swiss way of life. This is a huge misconception, considering that the majority of Islam is nothing like the stereotypes that right-wing groups such as the Swiss People's Party (SVP) like to perpetuate. It is true that many Muslim nations have practices that we would consider inhumane, like genital mutilation. If Switzerland is truly concerned about these practices, however,

then the Swiss government should work against them directly, rather than ban a mundane architectural feature.

Some will bring up architectural ordinance laws. Many cities ban huge neon marquees. The difference is that no single group is targeted. Why ban minarets but not church steeples? The minarets in Switzerland are also nonfunctioning; they aren't used to call people to prayer, so it isn't as if noise were the concern here. There are also only four minarets in all of Switzerland, so it makes you wonder why the SVP mobilized for what seems like a very innocuous thing. One might assert that these towers are a symbol of Islamization and of the supposed tyranny of that religion. The truth is that most Westerners' conceptions of Islam are skewed. Another argument is that the design of mosques does not fit with Swiss architectural styles; the truth is that there is no single unifying Swiss aesthetic.

People will bring up oppression in certain Islamic nations as justification for the ban. Some have even championed this ban as a victory for women (keep

in mind that the Swiss only began to allow women to vote in 1971). However, two wrongs do not make a right. Switzerland should not change its policies to act more like a totalitarian state; rather, the Swiss could be a model for the rest of Europe, which is dealing with a large influx of Muslim immigrants. Rather than leave Muslims disenfranchised, as this law will certainly do, the Swiss could have helped them become more integrated in society. Switzerland cannot ignore the welfare of its immigrants—this mentality is exactly what has led to recent attacks against mosques in Switzerland. If Muslim citizens feel unsafe, the ban further contributes to self-segregation and will only increase misunderstanding among the mostly Christian majority.

Another argument for the ban is that churches aren't allowed in the Muslim world, so why should the Swiss be so generous? Well, this is flat-out wrong: Christian churches are common in many Muslim countries, such as Pakistan and Egypt.

If there is any doubt that this is racism, just look at the posters

created by the SVP. Plastered across the nation are posters depicting a seemingly malicious and dark woman in a burqa. Previous posters by the party include one depicting white sheep kicking a black one out of Switzerland.

It seems this ban reflects Switzerland's failure to transform from a homogeneous nation united by blood to one united by common cultural values. This method will only accelerate religious tensions, however. The European Court of Human Rights and Amnesty International have both rightly spoken out against the ban. The question is whether similar proposals could ever come about in other European nations or even the United States. This is one of the greatest challenges of democracy—preventing tyranny of the majority. There will always be groups like the SVP that are scared of change; thus, we must not be complacent if we expect our freedoms to be secure.

Kevin is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at kevinlin91@gmail.com.

SARVESH from page 4

caught using a bong), we tie them to a pole and stone them. Looking at the Tiger Woods situation, it is a shame that he had marital issues, but why do CNN and the AP have to announce every nasty detail to the world? Their need to make sure that they keep readers enthralled drives them to sacrifice the private lives of celebrities and sports stars.

In the end, we should ask ourselves if we would ever want to be placed on a public platform, especially when people all over the world get

to know the problems we are having. Most of these public scandals blow over (look at A-Rod, Phelps and McGwire), but lives are ruined and people lose respect for their idols. Hopefully Tiger will be able to come out of this fiasco without losing too many endorsements or lovers. Oh, and keeping fans would be great too.

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THAKUR from page 4

inhabitants were forced to perform harsh physical labor and live in inhumane conditions with minimal food, clothing, housing, health care and sanitation. Anyone who goes to this school should be ashamed to compare him or herself to a victim of such a labor camp: Not only does such a student show complete ingratitude for the blessings we have at such a well-off university, but more importantly, such a comparison belittles the extreme suffering faced by victims of gulags over the 40-year span during which these facilities

were in operation. YAL has a lot of bark, but little bite. The group has made a lot of noise this semester and has drawn a lot of attention to itself, but ultimately its events seem far more inflammatory than thought provoking. If the group truly seeks to "win students over," it ought to reconsider its tactics.

Sneha is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at sthakur@wustl.edu.

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Duo of standout seniors headed to Mexico

Alex Dropkin
Sports Editor

For seniors Tim Machan, a defensive back, and Jared Daiber, an offensive lineman, the football season is far from over.

Despite a 28-8 loss in the last game of Washington University's 2009 season, the two will be playing one more game.

Machan and Daiber have been selected to play in the 2009 Tazón de Estrellas, on Saturday, Dec. 19, on the Tec de Monterrey

Campus Estado de México near Mexico City.

"It is almost like having two last games," Daiber said. "It was nice to have my last game with [Washington University], the team that I'm closest to and the team that I really know the teammates the best, but it was also good to know that it wasn't really my last game and that I get to play one more time."

The two have known about their nominations since early November.

"It means a lot. I was nominated by [Coach Kindbom], so it means that he had the confidence in me and the belief in me that I was a good enough player to represent our team and our country for the Division III level," Machan said.

The game pits an NCAA Division III all-star team, Team Stars and Stripes, against Mexico's best college players. Tec Monterrey is the premier private university system in Mexico. Its teams have captured eight of the past 10 Liga Major football national championships.

"They don't have divisions for their college teams, so we'll be playing pretty much the best [players] that they have," Daiber said. "It's a little intimidating, but I'm pretty excited."

Team Stars and Stripes is composed of players representing a total of 35 universities from 20 states. The roster was announced on Dec. 2.

"I've always played with

some really good players... but I'm pretty excited," Daiber said. "It'll be really interesting to play on a team where everybody really knows what they're doing. If we get to know each other the week that we're [in Mexico], it'll be fun to see what we can do."

The team will practice at the Tec Monterrey (CEM) facility in Atizapán de Zaragoza near Mexico City, from Dec. 14-18. During the week, they also will visit the Aztec Pyramids and the nation's capital.

"I've never been to Mexico," Machan said.

Machan was second in tackles (67) and interceptions (three) for the Bears this season. A first-team all-University Athletic Association (UAA) selection in 2007 and 2009 at defensive back, he has registered 183 career tackles and ranks seventh in school history with 12 interceptions.

"It's a reward for a good career," Machan said. "I've started for three years, played a lot of football here at Wash. U. and I think it's a recognition of my efforts. Like I said, I am very honored and by no means have felt entitled to something like this."

Daiber started all 10 games for the Bears this season, earning a second-team all-UAA selection. He is a three-time UAA All-Academic Team selection.

"Linemen don't really have any stats, so it's kind of hard to



JOSH GOLDMAN | STUDENT LIFE

Senior Tim Machan returns a punt in a 23-0 victory vs. Rhodes College on Oct. 3. Machan ended the season with three interceptions and 43 solo tackles. Two Bears football players, Daiber and Machan, have been selected to play in the 2009 Tazón de Estrellas in Mexico this month.



JOSH GOLDMAN | STUDENT LIFE

Senior offensive lineman Jared Daiber prepares for the snap during a 23-0 victory against Rhodes College.

be honored," Daiber said. "You don't really get shout-outs, or you're not really often player of the week...so it's really nice to be recognized for my individual accomplishments."

A crowd of around 10,000 is

expected to attend the game.

"That's a lot more people than I've ever played in front of," Machan said. "It's going to be a big crowd, a big atmosphere for a game, and I get to represent America and Wash. U."

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Athletes unite in teddy bear drive

The Washington University Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) has pitted the varsity sports teams in friendly competition with a teddy bear charity drive.
SAAC is opening up the contest to the entire school on Dec. 12 during the men's basketball game against No. 21 Augustana College.
Earlier in the week, athletes will stuff bears donated by the Build-a-Bear Workshop. The stuffed animals will be sent to the St. Louis Children's Hospital. Students who bring a bear will have the chance to compete in a halftime contest. Tip-off at this Red Alert game is at 7 p.m. (Johann Qua Hiansen)

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CADENZA



MOVIE REVIEW

'BROTHERS'

Alex Terrono
Cadenza Reporter

A movie starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman and Tobey Maguire sounds promising. Add in a plot about a man comforting his "deceased" brother's wife, only for the brother to come back, and you would think that you have a hit on your hands. "Brothers" has all of those attributes, but still somehow misses the mark. While the film is certainly engaging, it is a mixed bag at best.

After bailing his brother Tommy Cahill (Jake Gyllenhaal) out of jail, Captain Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) ships back to Afghanistan to do another tour of duty. While he is there, he is captured and held prisoner for months by terrorists. Unfortunately, back home, everyone thinks that Sam has died. In the aftermath of his death, Tommy visits Sam's previously hostile wife Grace to help her with her kids and her kitchen. After the two grow closer, Sam is saved by American troops and returns

home. He comes back psychologically damaged and paranoid about what has transpired between his wife and his brother.

Among the film's chief problems is the script. There were many times throughout the movie when the lines just sounded awkward or out of place. Although it wasn't a problem for the majority of the movie, the script's weaknesses are painfully obvious.

Some of the acting, especially Maguire's, is also problematic. At the end of the film, Maguire acted fantastically as a psychologically abused prisoner of war. But earlier on, remnants of this later persona made the shift less drastic and his earlier personality as loving husband and father less believable. Even before Sam went back to Afghanistan, he was cold and unrelatable. He didn't seem to fit the personality we were supposed to believe he once had. He was already the empty shell that he later became.

Part of this was enhanced by the fact that in the beginning of the film, Maguire already had the gaunt look that he supposedly acquired as a result of his capture. This also plays into a minor, yet

troubling aspect of the film: the timeline. Aside from the gaunt look, Maguire's hair never grew. Not once in the months he spent as a hostage did his hair look much longer. His beard grew, but his hair didn't. This may not be a major problem, but it is a concerning missing detail.

Aside from these issues, "Brothers" is a solid movie. The story is highly engrossing, and the acting is great (with the exception previously mentioned). Even with its problems, the movie will keep you interested from start to finish. There is certainly not a dull moment.

"Brothers" is a great idea that was unfortunately marred down by script and continuity issues. Ignoring these issues, though, you are left with a fine movie that will no doubt pull you in and hold you hostage.



directed by
Jim Sheridan

and starring
Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire

ALBUM REVIEW

'I Dreamed A Dream' Susan Boyle

Natalie Villalon
Cadenza Reporter

Do you remember Susan Boyle, the frumpy looking Scottish woman who wowed the world with her performance on "Britain's Got Talent"? If you don't, that first sentence should bring you up to date on her pop-culture credentials. Boyle's fame seems to stem mainly from her function as a real-world application of the proverbial book that should not be judged by its not quite Britney Spears-esque cover. Of course, her talent as a singer should not be overlooked. She has a gorgeous voice, which she showcases on her new album, "I Dreamed a Dream."

Talent, however, doesn't make a great album. While she is undoubtedly an incredible singer, Boyle's debut is neither particularly interesting nor innovative. Consisting of 12 covers, ranging eclectically from the Rolling Stone's "Wild Horses" to "Silent Night," the album succeeds in showing off the beauty of Boyle's voice. But it doesn't do much else, nor does it seem to have any other aspirations.

"I Dreamed a Dream" is difficult to criticize in terms of absolute artistry, because the quality of Boyle's singing is so flawless. Unfortunately, since nearly every song is interpreted in the same relentlessly gorgeous manner, the album

quickly becomes tiresome. I admit I could appreciate the vocal artistry behind the rendition of "Wild Horses." After I began listening, I soon found myself enveloped in the melting beauty of her voice accompanied by a piano. Despite the soothingness of her singing, I discovered myself meditating on the raw emotion that permeates the original version. The Rolling Stones elicit shivers and reminiscence; Boyle's voice on this track establishes itself as the auditory equivalent of opium. Ditto for the oatmeal-bland versions of "Day Dream Believer" and "Proud"; her voice performs beautifully, but the manner in which she sings lacks energy.

Many of the tracks convey an atmosphere of worship, admittedly appropriate in some cases. "Amazing Grace," "How Great thou Art" and "Silent Night" are probably on God's playlist; based on her reverent singing (and for other less ingenious reasons) Boyle could've had a successful career as a nun.

In terms of quality, the singing is impeccable and the arrangements complement the music. Unless you're in search of an effective cure for insomnia and don't feel like cracking open a physics textbook, however, it's not necessary to buy all of the tracks. One track will suffice to convey any and all of the musical themes contained therein. Boyle exemplifies current

pop-culture celebrity, built upon a foundation of reality television. Based on this CD, I predict she will soon sink back into obscurity, haunting the elevators of large office buildings and the aisles of grocery stores. As a pop-culture reference, she doubtlessly will be cemented in the annals of history with a 30-second segment in one of VH1's pop culture extravaganzas, perhaps sandwiched between Kanye West's chivalrous behavior at the VMAs and the mystery surrounding Lady Gaga's questionable genitalia. Unless you're looking for lullaby music or something to put in a 2009 time capsule and never listen to again, I would not recommend buying this album.



for fans of

Andrea Bocelli, Adam Lambert
tracks to download
'I Dreamed a Dream,' 'Wild Horses'

WE'VE GOT THE BIGGEST 'BALL' OF THEM ALL: 'THE BALL' BY TOLTEC STUDIOS, A MOD REVIEW

Michael Yang
Cadenza Reporter

I love firing virtual Glocks as much as the next guy, but sometimes, I get an itch that shooting terrorists in their ski-masked faces just can't scratch. Sometimes, I want to play a game that involves rolling around a giant metal ball in underground Aztec caverns. Luckily, Quetzalcoatl smiled upon me, and I found an excellent mod for "Unreal Tournament 3" called "The Ball," created by indie developer Toltec Studio.

If I were to describe "The Ball" using a series of obnoxiously hyphenated words, I would say it's a single-player, first-person, physics-based,

puzzle-solving action game. But that doesn't say much. A much easier description would be "Kind of like 'Portal,' but instead of the portal gun, you get this hammer-weapon thingy and a giant ball that's twice your size." Confused? Hear me out.

In "The Ball," our nameless protagonist falls into a pit while on an archaeological dig. He finds the aforementioned hammer-weapon thingy and Ball, and sets off exploring and solving puzzles in the Aztec-themed environment. The beginning of each level is punctuated by a solemn voiceover explaining a conflict between mankind and a mysterious "Them" that somehow involves the Ball. It's hardly gripping, but it's nice that a

narrative exists. Each location holds a linear series of puzzles, most of which involve flipping some out-of-reach switch. It may not sound special, but the game puts a novel twist on puzzles in that almost all of them involve some clever use of the game's core mechanic, the Ball. The player manipulates the Ball with the hammer-like weapon, and the controls are simple: Right-click pulls the Ball toward the player, and left-click pushes it away.

An example puzzle would be activating a switch in a downstairs room filled with lava. Drop the Ball in and pull it along from the surface, using its momentum to keep it rolling until it hits the switch. Or perhaps you need

to cross a path filled with arrows flying from a walls à la "Indiana Jones." You can use the Ball as a shield while desperately wielding the hammer-magnet to keep it in front of you. Fortunately, there is a decent variety to

the puzzles, despite the game only being about six hours long.

The Ball is good for more than just rolling over glowing switches. It's also your best friend during the handful of combat scenarios in the

game. As powerful as your hammer may be, it's worthless in combat, only serving to push enemies back. That is to say, back into the path of the Ball, which effortlessly

See BALL, page 9

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Random Acts of Kindness Week brings cheer to campus

Jack Marshall
Staff Reporter

Sophomore honorary Lambda Sigma held its annual Random Acts of Kindness Week, offering free bagels and hot chocolate, as well as compliments and hugs. Members of the group planned the events in an attempt to encourage other acts of kindness around campus.

"I came up with this idea a few years ago, because to me it's important to do little kindnesses for everybody everyday if we can," said Lambda Sigma faculty adviser Darla Dale, assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences.

According to Dale, this year's members of Lambda Sigma planned to be more visible than prior years'. The theme for the week was based on Andy Warhol's quote, "I think everybody should like everybody." Events included painting the sphere at the underpass with Warhol's message and Residential College Appreciation Day on Monday. Members handed out free bagels and orange juice at the

Underpass and gave free hugs and compliments at the Bunny on Tuesday. Wednesday was Dean Appreciation Day, and members gave out free root beer in the DUC on Thursday.

"The group started doing [the week] on a small scale, but this year's group has really taken the idea to a new level," Dale said.

"We planned for this to be more visible than last year," said co-president Spencer Goodman, a sophomore.

Dale came up with the idea for Random Acts of Kindness Week after finding a Web site dedicated to random acts of kindness. The week has become an annual tradition since then.

According to Dale and Lambda Sigma co-presidents Goodman and Sasha Yan, the main goal for the week is not only to improve the general morale and mood around campus with individual acts of kindness, but also to encourage students to perform small acts of kindness for each other, which Goodman cited as a reason for painting the sphere.

"[Painting the sphere] wasn't really to advertise

Random Acts of Kindness Week, but to get out the random acts of kindness message and reinforce that this is Random Acts of Kindness Week, and it's not just for us to do stuff for everyone else, but for everyone to take it upon themselves to be nice to other people too," Goodman said.

Timing also helped influence some of the feedback and activities for the week, due to the highly stressful weeks between Thanksgiving break and winter break.

"The jokes and compliments are just to get people in a better mood, since people are stressed about finals, if people are in a good mood ready to spread the love," Goodman said.

The week began with Resident Appreciation Day, in which Lambda Sigma members placed colorful gift boxes and balloons in the lobbies of Residential Life buildings urging people to have a great day.

"It's Monday after Thanksgiving and not everyone's really happy to be back, so it's a good way to kick off the week and get people in a better

mood," Yan said.

Goodman and Yan noticed positive feedback when they staffed the breakfast booth at the Underpass on Tuesday.

Dale also emphasized the importance of the message of the week—that anyone can make a small but positive

difference around campus by doing something as minor as holding a door or giving out a compliment.

"The idea is to raise awareness about how something very small can impact someone," Dale said. "Sometimes when you're having a bad

day but someone takes a minute either to open the door or say, 'Thanks,' or, 'You look great'—whatever it is, it can be the smallest thing to make your day, which you can pass on to other people."



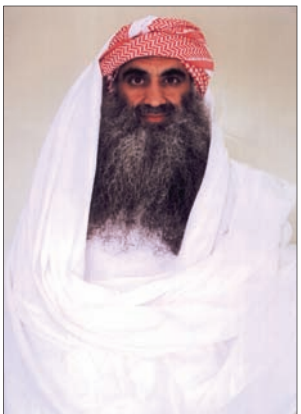
MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Students in Lambda Sigma make root beer floats for members of the University community on Thursday in the Danforth University Center's Tisch Commons. The event was held as a part of Random Acts of Kindness Week.

TRIAL from page 1

of evidence are different also."

Holder and the Justice Department are confident in convictions for the subjects, but hinted that the government has a right to detain anyone who



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

might be an enemy combatant, because Congress has the power to take military action against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

"The position of the administration is that trying these defendants in criminal court lends credibility to the proceedings," Lieberman said.

According to Magarian, the administration most likely would not have proceeded with such a publicized civilian trial for these defendants if it did not believe that it had a reasonable chance at conviction.

"I'm pretty sure [the Obama administration] would not risk losing if they thought they were really risking something," Magarian said. "If the

administration and the lawyers working on this case thought there was some procedural device that would get these guys off their commitment to doing this in civilian court would dissipate really quickly. They probably think based on what we all know, that the chances of conviction are through the roof in either a civilian court or a military tribunal. They hope this will make this country look good in international eyes."

During the summer, a task-force comprised of members of the Justice Department and the Pentagon created a system designed to determine what to do with each individual enemy combatant. Factors including methods of evidence gathering,

victim identity and the location where the crime took place were included in the formula.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg endorsed the idea of holding the trials in New York, while New York Gov. David Paterson did not support the plan.

Many people are concerned that the defendants will not be able to secure a fair trial. According to Lieberman, proving that a defendant will fail to receive a fair trial is a difficult proposition.

"For [an absence of a fair trial] to exist a number of things have to occur," Lieberman said. "It has to be more than a high-profile case, for you have to show that people can't render a

nonbiased verdict. We have had 150 criminal prosecutions in the war on terror. We try high-profile defendants all the time."

Although many question the possibility of a fair trial, others contend that New York City is an ideal place to find an unbiased jury pool.

"If they tried to move it out of New York City, they would lose their motion because the jury pool is gigantic and the ability to get unbiased jurors is high because of high population concentration," Magarian said. "I would guess that any attempt to do that there would be no sufficiently strong reason to grant a motion for a change of venue."

The Gallup polling organization found that 51 percent of

the country believes it would be better to hold the trial outside the United States, compared to 42 percent who think it would be better to hold it in New York City.

By an even larger margin, 59 percent to 36 percent, the American public believes that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed should be tried in a military court, versus a civilian venue.

Republicans are overwhelmingly opposed, and Democrats are the only group to favor civilian trials for terrorists, but barely, at 51 percent for and 43 percent opposed.

More than 90 percent believe Mohammed will be convicted, and nearly 80 percent want to see him executed.

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Luenemann reflects on winning the title and coach of the year

Kurt Rohrbeck
Sports Reporter

Fresh off of his third national championship at Washington University, women's volleyball head coach Rich Luenemann was named American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Coach of the Year on Nov. 24. Luenemann won the award twice before, after the 2003 and 2007 national titles. Luenemann recently sat down with Student Life to talk about this incredible season, how it felt to coach this team, and the future of Wash. U. women's volleyball.

Student Life: Right after the championship, it sounded a lot like what you all had just accomplished hadn't really hit any of you yet. I take it that it's kind of set in since then?

Rich Luenemann: The championship match ended on a rather odd note. When the ball was served into the net, it was kind of anticlimactic, and everyone was like, "is that it?" I really appreciate how the University community has welcomed the team back and has gone out of their way to talk to the players about how well they did. And I know they're so proud.

SL: You've been here for a while. Wash. U. has a strong team year in and year out, and even then, chances are you're not going to win the national title every year. Having coached national championship teams before, when did you know that this team was special in the sense that you knew that they could go all the way?

RL: Oddly enough, you used that word "special," because at our preseason cookout in late August, I made the comment that I have a very special feeling about this team. And again, the feeling began with the leadership that the captains were showing. I do believe that it's very possible that the three captains we had this year were the best combination of captains I've had in all the years that I've coached. And then from there, we looked at the chemistry the team enjoyed; everyone was on the same page, everyone had the same agenda whether they were a starter or a reserve. It was all for one and one for all, and that led us throughout the season quite well. We encountered those injuries, we had so many challenges throughout the season, so many challenges, and each challenge the team met, they overcame.

SL: Is there anything that differentiates this team from the teams you had in 2003 and 2007, which also brought home the trophy?

RL: Well, I would look for commonalities rather than differences. They've all had team chemistry. I think that this year's team enjoyed that same chemistry as that 2007 team did and that 2003 team did and even



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Head Coach Rich Luenemann speaks to the volleyball team at the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship against Juniata College on Nov. 27. Luenemann received AVCA Coach of the Year honors for the third time in his career as the Bears captured their 10th national title.

other teams that didn't win it. Because we weren't the most talented team at the final eight (of the NCAA tournament). But we had the greatest resolve, the greatest motivation, the most intense focus and the best leadership from our captains. So when you take all of those factors into consideration, good talent and exceptional leadership, exceptional focus, exceptional assimilation of the concepts...it was a recipe for success.

SL: You won AVCA National Coach of the Year for the third time. What does an award like that mean to you, in terms of your own personal achievement and for your team?

RL: There are many, many coaches who are very deserving of the award, and there are many coaches who are probably more deserving than myself. Unfortunately, sometimes the committee gives it to the coach of the team that wins. What was gratifying this year, for myself, was that again, we weren't the most athletically talented team at the final eight. We might have been the fourth or fifth most athletically talented team. But for a team to face that challenge and excel, that was just such a great feeling.

SL: You talked a lot during the year about how young your team was. How helpful is that for you in terms of setting up next year?

RL: It's really great knowing we have such a young nucleus, but at the same time it's incumbent for me to continue to work hard to improve the team. So we're looking to add anywhere

from six to eight new players for next year. The one thing we didn't have this year at the end of the season, due to injuries, was depth. So we are going to bring in a number of players. We're not going to stand pat and say, "Hey, we just won the national championship, we're a young team, let's do this again." We realize we're going to do anything we need to do to make the team stronger.

SL: Coming out of a national championship season, how do you try to handle expectations going into next season? When the team comes into camp in August, do you tell them to take things slowly or do you come out and say to them, "Hey, let's go repeat again?"

RL: I hope that each one of them hopes that—no, expects that—we win a national championship. I hope that each player there has in her mind that she wants to be an All-American. Because if you don't strive for the greatest goals you can possibly reach, then how can you envision doing that? So we'll begin each year with the same expectation, and that'll be to win the national championship. And once we establish that as our goal, we have to go through the process to make it.

SL: One thing you want people to remember about this team—what will it be?

RL: We entered with great expectations, met incredible challenges along the way, and through the great leadership we had, the great focus and the intense motivation that we had, won the national championship.

BALL from page 7

rolls over zombies and giant ladybugs with a satisfying squish and obligatory onscreen blood splatter.

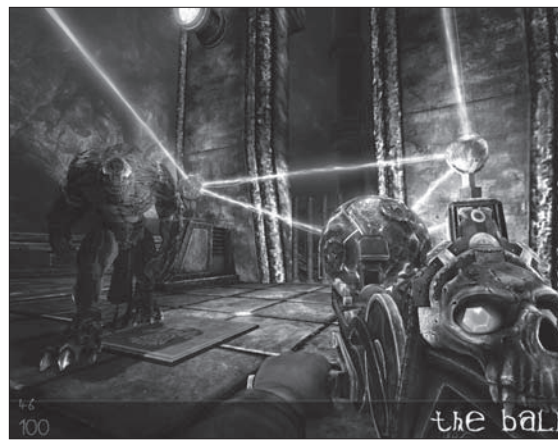
"The Ball" isn't quite as good as it could be, however. The difficulty of the puzzles doesn't scale with progression, and I didn't find myself stopping to think any more than I did 40 minutes in. Sometimes the game is less than obvious in its goals, such as when the player must kill a certain number of zombies without the help of the Ball. Defenseless without my precious Ball, I ran from the enemies for minutes, looking for a non-existent alternate route before my pursuers accidentally fell into lava and a glyph lit up. Moreover, combat only becomes interesting later on, when the Ball can be baked in an oven or charged with electricity, but these ideas only show up 20 minutes before the game is over.

Still, many things are forgiven when you gaze upon the true star of the show, the Ball itself. It was designed to be a massive monolith of an ancient civilization, and the developers did an outstanding job bringing it to life with a genuine sense of weight. The amount of time and effort put into the mod becomes evident on the uber-detailed surface of the Ball, and even the sound of the rough, metallic sphere rolling across a wooden floor is well done. Even more delightful are

later stages which allow the Ball to be augmented in different ways, such as when it acts as a rolling flashlight, anti-gravity field or the key to an ancient vehicle.

Looking at the high ceilings of Oztoc and the enormous pyramids of Hueca, it's clear that the same amount of care has been given to the rest of the mod. The sprawling environments and dramatic lighting are simply excellent. The levels were designed by Sjoerd "Hourences" De Jong, a freelance Unreal Engine mapmaker who literally wrote the book on level design. The only blemishes on the outstanding presentation were a handful of awkward animations for the enemies.

"The Ball" is also one of the most polished mods I've had the pleasure of playing. Besides coming in a handy one-click installer, it features custom menus and loading screens, and in many ways, seems slicker than the game that it is a mod of. The mod is so clearly ready for prime time that the developers will be releasing it as a commercial stand-alone game in spring 2010. Toltec Studios promises to expand the game's best ideas while adding new levels and features. Right now, "The Ball" can be found in its mod form at www.modDB.com/mods/the-ball. Go ahead and download it (for free) if you own "Unreal Tournament 3." Ballys ideas such as these deserve your time.



In "The Ball," players must find creative uses for the object.

STUDENT LIFE

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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

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

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FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 4, 2009

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Dave Hanson 12/4/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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40 Playboy Mansion resident, familiarly known as the "Blondie" from the 1950s

41 Like colleges with the lowest tuition, for residents

42 1840s president

43 Annual period beyond the current fiscal one

44 Washington city

45 Credits as a reference

47 Parkinsonism treatment

48 Greek architectural style

49 Fathered

50 Clarinetist's need

51 1920s-40s art style

52 Spring bloomer

53 French film

54 Frat party containers

for the blind man

Sasha Fine
Scene Reporter

Contemporary art will always inspire fierce debates; this is undeniable. What is or is not art? Is modern art of comparable quality to previous bodies of work or artistic movements? Art can be variously defined; but, in general terms, it is often described as something that gives rise to emotions in the viewer. If this is an accurate description, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis unquestionably contains art. It bewilders, confuses and forces the viewer to think.

Located at the corner of Washington Boulevard and North Spring Avenue, a block from the Fabulous Fox Theatre and Powell Symphony Hall, the museum is part of the small arts district of St. Louis, otherwise known as Grand Central. It is 10-15 minutes from the Grand MetroLink station on foot; the walk takes one past much of the Saint Louis University campus.

The museum is non-collecting, which means that it only hosts exhibitions. Its current exhibit, "For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there," also known as "For the blind man..." is certainly a site to see. The exhibit takes up the entire ground floor of the building, a concrete two-story structure. The first floor has several large, open and well-lit rooms, while the second contains a walkway, a media center and the museum's

offices. The exposition is dedicated to the blind man named in the title, which was how, according to the exhibition guide, Charles Darwin described a mathematician. The principle behind the exhibit is that art can explain the world in speculative terms, much like mathematics, and mystery can be as exciting as knowledge and facts.

The exhibit begins with a dialogue by Marcel Broodthaers, a Belgian poet and artist. A speaker, a single black box protruding from a concrete wall, projects a recording, aptly titled "Interview with a Cat," in which Broodthaers asks a feline a series of questions about art in Swiss French.

The viewer then continues into the exhibit, walking through a small dark room that houses a short movie, in addition to a 17th-century book open to a depiction of a "Wunderkammer," or cabinet of curiosities, which is a form of proto-museum. "Wunderkammers" would most often consist of a room in someone's home and would contain various exotic and rare objects that the buyer collected from around the world. The book conveys an idea of the museum's history. Both the movie and the book provide an appropriate introduction to the exhibit, which is made up of a variety of works that are disparate in both subject matter and topic.

Notable works in the exhibit include "Voyage of the Beagle" by Rachel Harrison,

"To do with a wide spot along a dusty road crossing a dry channel, between the old end of Old Red and the dead end of the New West" by Dave Hullfish Bailey and "The Klein Bottle Piñata" by Mariana Castillo Deball. It is hard to pick individual pieces, as all are fairly avant-garde and experimental, the sole exception being a pair of minimalist still lifes depicting bottles and cans by Giorgio Morandi.

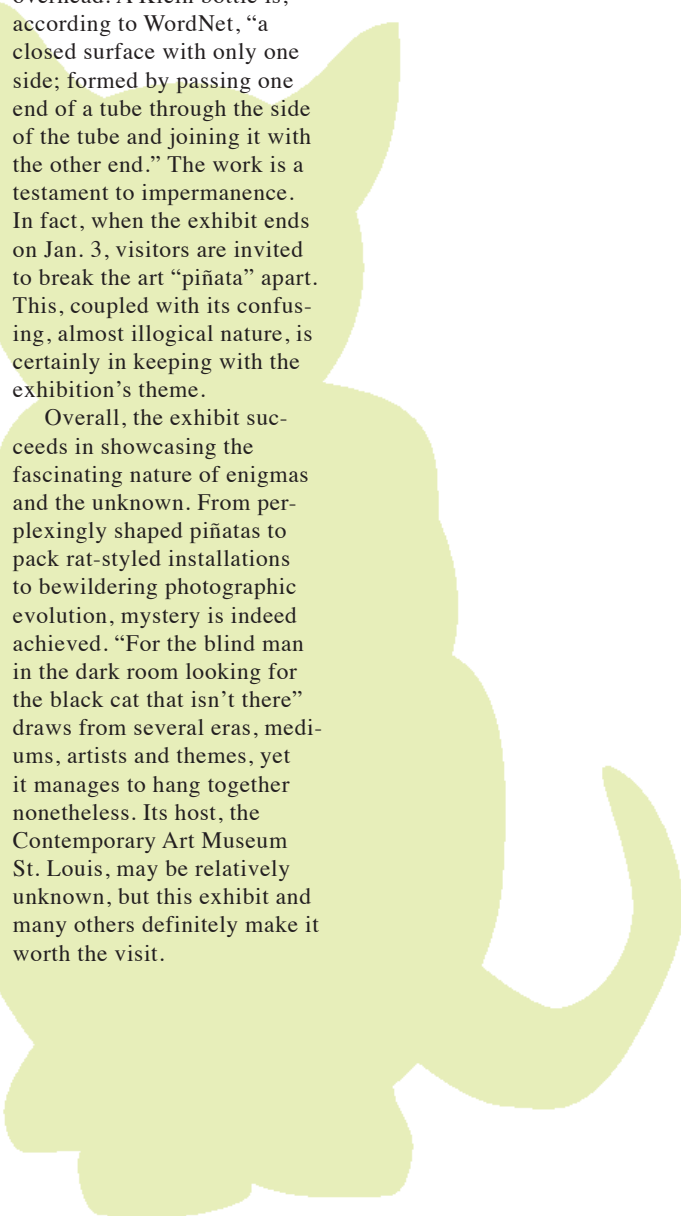
"Voyage of the Beagle" is inspired by Charles Darwin's journal of the second survey voyage of the HMS Beagle. Consisting of 57 photographic portraits, the artist heads off in a different direction from Darwin. Instead of following his theory of evolution, Harrison opts to juxtapose unrelated portraits. In fact, very few of the photographs are even of humans, and some even portray animated characters such as Patrick from "SpongeBob SquarePants." The total effect is the creation of an almost "sliding" effect—the viewer's eyes rove over all the photographs, attempting to find order when chaos may be the intended effect.

Bailey's work, influenced by the community library at Slab City (the California community where he works), is a disorganized clutter. Arranged around the skeleton of a boat trailer, Bailey appears to have continuously added household and artistic items, almost, as the guide to the exhibit says, "as if he is literally taking his research on the road." When one initially glances at the

oeuvre, it appears as if Bailey has merely haphazardly thrown objects together. Upon closer inspection, a slight method to his madness begins to emerge.

Deball's work is much more simplistic than both Bailey's and Harrison's. "The Klein Bottle Piñata" is, unsurprisingly, a papier-mâché Klein bottle suspended overhead. A Klein bottle is, according to WordNet, "a closed surface with only one side; formed by passing one end of a tube through the side of the tube and joining it with the other end." The work is a testament to impermanence. In fact, when the exhibit ends on Jan. 3, visitors are invited to break the art "piñata" apart. This, coupled with its confusing, almost illogical nature, is certainly in keeping with the exhibition's theme.

Overall, the exhibit succeeds in showcasing the fascinating nature of enigmas and the unknown. From perplexingly shaped piñatas to pack rat-styled installations to bewildering photographic evolution, mystery is indeed achieved. "For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there" draws from several eras, mediums, artists and themes, yet it manages to hang together nonetheless. Its host, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, may be relatively unknown, but this exhibit and many others definitely make it worth the visit.



Stepping Out

Mai Lee

8440 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63124, 314-993-3754



Ethan Brandt
Stepping Out Columnist

Go to Mai Lee. Right now. Seriously, go. I honestly would not be offended if you stopped reading my review to go eat there.

I've recently been trying to figure out which eateries in the local area are best for college students. In my mind, there are several criteria to consider: quality, variety and affordability are the most important. Mai Lee fits all of these and more.

Located on Delmar, right near Interstate 170, this restaurant was the first to introduce Vietnamese cuisine to the St. Louis area, but it certainly hasn't rested on its laurels since. The visual appearance of the restaurant is simple and comforting: There isn't any stereotypical Asian music playing; the servers don't wear over-the-top attire, and the decoration, obviously of an Asian theme, is very tasteful.

The first striking quality of Mai Lee is its menu, which presents a good variety of dishes at an affordable price. The menu has two primary parts: Vietnamese and Chinese. That's right, though Mai Lee is a Vietnamese

restaurant, it acknowledges that some people are simply unfamiliar with different varieties of Asian cuisine and are more comfortable with classic Chinese food. The Chinese section is much smaller than the Vietnamese, as would be expected, though it still lists more than 40 dishes.

If you want some real variety, stick to the Vietnamese side of the menu, which boasts more than 170 choices. Admittedly, some are pretty similar to each other, but 170 choices—from seafood, vegetarian and meat entrees to 26 different soups—is still pretty remarkable. Mai Lee also has a good selection of Vietnamese beverages, including (my favorite) iced coffee with condensed milk.

I eventually settled on one of the Vietnamese soups, No. 11 (the servers know all of the dishes by number as well as by name), and sweet rice for dessert.

Here is where the quality and affordability come in—I paid \$5.95 for my soup, and the bowl was enormous. Not only was the soup itself enough to feed a hungry rugby player, but it came with an additional plate overflowing with mix-ins: fresh

bean sprouts, peppers, lettuce, lemons and herbs.

Before my additions, my soup consisted of clear noodles and sliced pork in a fragrant broth. After I customized it a little with some of the extra ingredients, it was a legitimate bastion of Vietnamese flavors. The soup itself was wonderful: It had a very full flavor and texture. The herbs played a starring role when I was eating the vegetables in the dish, but then they took a complementary role when the pork came into the game. I honestly had trouble finishing the bowl, not because it wasn't delicious but because I got so much.

After packing the rest up to save for later, I was served my sweet rice: a yellowish log of rice that, unless you are a frequent rice eater, doesn't taste terribly sweet. After the intense flavor of the soup, however, it was just right, allowing me to appreciate my meal for all its grandiosity and subtlety.

At Mai Lee, I received an incredibly satisfying and delicious meal for just \$10. This is the perfect stop for anyone who needs a break from the monotony of burgers and pizza but doesn't want to break the bank.



Ginika Agbim
Fashion Columnist

It's no surprise that many of us have had to wear uniforms at some point in our lives. If you wore them in elementary school or middle school, but not in high school, you probably celebrated your newfound freedom with a shopping spree. You finally had the opportunity to create an identity, a new image to express yourself.

Lucky you if you've never had to experience the torturous and stringent rules that come with uniforms. If you've worn a uniform for most or all of your life, this article is for you. Fast-forward a few years and you're in college. Like everyone else, you're still in the process of figuring out who you are and finding new avenues through which your personality and ideas can shine. Yet on my daily trek from my dorm to class, I see the same colors, the same book bags, the same boots and the same hairstyles; this monotony almost leads me to ask if Washington University has a secret uniform that I knew nothing about.

I am not saying that no one has a sense of style at Wash. U. Obviously, some students on campus really know how to dress well. Also, I am not claiming to be immune to the unoriginality that can sometimes be spotted on our campus. We all have our rushed days and this Midwestern weather does not always allow us to dress as well as we would like.

Thankfully, there is no explicit uniform here, but is

there a hidden list of rules stating that every girl must own at least one Longchamp bag in either navy, black, brown or red? Or is it a requirement that all students, male and female, must don a black North Face fleece when the weather gets cold? Must we all wear Uggs around this time of the year? And really, when did leggings become pants? I'll admit it, I myself own a pink Longchamp bag; I love it because it's both sturdy and practical. But there are other functional and well-built bags out there.

As we shop, are we subconsciously influenced by peer pressure or the pressure to conform? What alternatives are there to this monotony? When it comes to Uggs, there are many different variations (and I'm

not suggesting you buy fake ones): Michael Kors and Børn both offer "insulated" boots at similar price points. Instead of buying another North Face, consider purchasing a fur or faux fur coat, a wool coat or a down coat. Labels such as French Connection, Free People and even North Face have coats that can help you stand out. For a Longchamp bag replacement, take your time and look around—other well-made bags big enough to carry books and laptops do exist.

I encourage you all to think outside the box as you shop this holiday season. Find items that are unique and true to you. Don't worry about what people will think. More importantly, have fun.

-Stay Stylish!



Ugg boots such as these are frequently seen around campus.

MCT CAMPUS