



The Haps explores the best ways to party and enjoy the Super Bowl in **SCENE, PAGE 7**

Missed LNYF? Our slideshow lets you experience all of the festivities
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Oscar nominations will be announced Tuesday. Alex Terrono makes predictions in **CADENZA, PAGE 6**



STUDENT LIFE

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Lunar New Year Festival



Lunar New Year Festival, the annual celebration of East Asian culture, held in Edison Theatre, celebrates the start of the Year of the Tiger. The "fearless" theme symbolizes the courage, confidence and independent nature of the tiger. This year's performances, on Friday and Saturday night, featured cultural dances involving dozens of students. Dances included Contemporary Beijing (top), Parasol (bottom left) and the Korean Fan Dance (bottom right). The shows also included juggling performances, modern dance, and traditional dances such as the Lion Dance—a traditional symbolic Chinese dance—designed to bring luck and fortune in the new year.

Photos by Matt Mitgang (left) & Cedric Xia (right)

Danforth plant center receives millions in stimulus money

John Scott
News Editor

The results of the stimulus bill are still being felt at Washington University and the surrounding region. Renewable fuel research in St. Louis got a big boost in mid-January when it was announced that the area would receive millions of dollars in stimulus money.

The aim of the funding is to help create jobs and a domestic biofuel industry.

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is the main institution receiving funding. Funding will be divided among several universities, research institutions and companies, said Karla Goldstein, vice president of public and government affairs of the center.

"The entire \$44 million doesn't come here," Goldstein said. "It's about \$4 to \$5 million that will be at the center. They sort of carve up the work."

Goldstein said the center's previous work with renewable energy likely assisted the center as it sought the award.

"I think that we were chosen because of our expertise in this area; because of the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Institute for renewable fuel," Goldstein said.

Goldstein said that the additional resources coming to the center permit the addition of new dimensions to its research. Projects funded by the grant will seek to make further strides toward renewable energy.

"This also has a little bit

beyond basic research," Goldstein said. "This has more applied [research]. It also includes a pilot algae production facility in Missouri."

"The point of the whole NAABB [National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bio-products] is to develop a systems approach for sustainable commercialization of algal biofuels," Goldstein added. "In other words, to determine the economic viability of algae as a source for biofuel."

Goldstein noted the benefits that the funding will provide for the St. Louis area.

"It really cements St. Louis as a leader in algal biofuels research," Goldstein said. "The work that's going on here at the center—it strengthens that work."

"It built on the Taylor family gift of 2007 [and] the DOE award of last year," she said, referencing a \$15 million award that the center received from the Department of Energy and a \$25 million grant from the Taylor family, which owns Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Goldstein said that the involvement of several institutions in the research shows that the St. Louis region is a global leader in this type of research.

"The work that's going on at Washington University, the work that's going on at UMSL—it really shows that St. Louis is a leader in this area," Goldstein said.

See DANFORTH, page 3

ResLife expands gender-neutral housing program

Michelle Merlin
News Editor

Washington University's Office of Residential Life has decided to expand gender-neutral housing to the entire North Side, including the Village, Millbrook, Village East and the off-campus apartments, following a series of deliberations. The housing will be available in the fall and can be applied for in the current round of the housing process.

Previously, gender-neutral housing was available only in the Village and Greenway.

The expansion comes in response to pressure by organizations such as Student Union and the Pride Alliance during the past few years.

"The Office of Residential Life aims to treat students as adults and encourages them to make well-thought-out decisions," reads the application for gender-neutral housing.

The Student Union Senate passed a resolution in December 2008 urging the University to expand gender-neutral housing. The resolution includes information from a December 2006 survey, which found that 74 percent of students would consider gender-neutral housing if it were

available to upperclassmen.

"This is an incredible step for the University in showing its support for students' desires and students' needs," said senior Chase Sackett, the current speaker of the Senate and former Senate sponsor of the resolution. "I think it's a testament to the role students play in these processes that make a difference in our lives on campus. I'm very excited the University has made this crucial decision, and I'm excited to see how it plays out next year."

Students applying for gender-neutral housing must hand in their applications in person to ResLife instead of through WebSTAC. They can apply only in rounds 1 and 2.

Applicants must sign a gender-neutral housing agreement before they can apply, stating that they have considered the implications of gender-neutrality and have discussed their decision and received support from whoever is responsible for payment. The suites must also be filled for the entire academic year.

An estimated 30 colleges and universities across the country permit gender-neutral housing, according to the National Student Genderblind Campaign.

International design competition to rebuild Arch grounds by 2015

Jennifer Wei
Staff Reporter

In 2015, a newly designed modern park will showcase a St. Louis historic icon: the Gateway Arch. A 10-month international design competition that started in December 2009 will select a winning architectural design among portfolios submitted by professionals around the country and the world.

The competition, "Framing A Modern Masterpiece: The City + The Arch + The River," encompasses the idea of "connecting the city, the Arch grounds, and the river, maintaining the Arch as an icon, [and] portraying the entire place as an iconic place," according to the competition manager, Don Stastny, a prominent architect and urban designer and the CEO of Portland's StastnyBrun Architects Inc.

In January, eight jurors of various specialties were selected, one of whom was a Washington University faculty member: Gerald Early, the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and the director of the Center for the Humanities.

Others include architecture critic Robert Campbell, former National Park Service Deputy Director Denis Galvin, urban strategist David Leland, curator Cara McCarty, landscape architects

Laurie Olin and Carol Barney, and Harvard urban design professor Alex Krieger.

"We selected the jury [by looking at] the qualities that we want the designers to address within the competition," Stastny said. "We look for people who aren't just kind of singular but have multiple kinds of discipline. They also have to be the type of people who will collaborate...[and] have the highest personal integrity. Once they make a decision as a jury, that opinion will be respected and not turned over."

Redesigning the Arch grounds had been an architectural project discussed for many years before becoming a reality.

"One of the things that had been talked about was redesigning the Arch grounds by 2004 [to commemorate the year 1904, when the World Fair had been held], but that never happened," Early said. "This is a new initiative that's being launched—[it has been] talked about probably for the last eight or nine years."

The first step of the competition—a deadline for competition registration that included a letter of intent—has ended.

"In this first round, we will evaluate the qualifications; people have submitted their intention and their desire... The jury will look for teams who have shown prior work [that is] creative and viable,"

said Alex Krieger, an urban designer who had been on the juries for a competition to redesign Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House as well as a Holocaust memorial in Boston.

According to Early, a winning team's scheme will be selected this August.

To connect the city and the river is a unique project in and of itself and can be compared to a similar architectural design competition in Shanghai, Krieger said.

"In Shanghai, the competition was to take a three-mile area between the river and the historic part of the city...to bury the very wide road [separating] the city from the river, and then extend the park system to the river," Krieger said. "The kind of impact of [the Arch

competition] would be comparable to the transformation [in Shanghai]."

The jury will meet for the first time early next week and begin the selection process. According to Stastny, there has not been a budget for the competition in an effort to prevent limiting designs. But Krieger said the jury will make sure that "the winning scheme is viable to be realized and to continue to be realized in the near future."

"It has to be somehow comparable to the Arch itself," Krieger said. "It has to provide amenities to people using the park environment; it should diminish the barrier from downtown St. Louis and the river; [and] it should of course be beautiful when seen from the distance."



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

English professor Gerald Early was selected as a member of an eight-person jury charged with choosing a proposal to redesign the grounds surrounding the Gateway Arch. The facelift of the Arch grounds will be finished by 2015.

THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Monday 1

Mostly Cloudy
High 38
Low 27



Tuesday 2

Partly Cloudy
High 38
Low 23



eventcalendar

MONDAY 1

All Student Theatre poster sale
Mallinckrodt Green Chairs, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Buy posters, curtains and magnets to support the production of "Peter Pan."

Cupcakery & Dipity Dough Fundraiser for Haiti
DUC, Tisch Commons, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Buy cupcakes and cookies to support Haiti through Partners in Health, the Student Union fund. Sponsored by IFC and Women's Panhellenic Association.

Field Day information session
Ursa's Fireside, 6 p.m.-7 p.m.
Students from St. Louis Public Schools come to campus for a day of activities and games as a reward for academic success. Come for more information on how to get involved.

TUESDAY 2

Arts & Sciences: Schedule changes
WebSTAC, all day
Last day to add, wait or change sections on spring 2010 courses.

Cupcakery Fundraiser for Brookings service trip to Mexico
DUC, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Support a service trip to Baja, Mexico. Students go to the El Suez Orphanage.

newsbriefs

Campus

Lunar New Year Festival well received

Every year, students put on a cultural show to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This year, the festival celebrated the year of the tiger, said Jessica Lee, an audience member. The show focused on the qualities of tiger—courage, confidence, independence and primarily fearlessness. The performance showcased a variety of Asian cultures and included various dances.

"I thought there was lot of energy, fire and colors and I really liked the music. I really enjoyed the Korean dance because I haven't seen it before, and it was interesting to compare different Asian cultures' dances." (Michelle Merlin)

National

White House urges Senate to pass jobs bill

The White House on Sunday pressed the Senate to pass legislation quickly to stimulate growth in the floundering job market.

The bill, which costs about \$100 billion, aims to include a tax credit for employers who hire new workers, increase salaries or expand hours for existing workers, and spend on infrastructure projects, according to White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs. The administration also plans to lend out money repaid to the Treasury's financial markets rescue program and to community banks that are the main providers of capital to small businesses.

Although there are signs of economic recovery, the national unemployment rate remains high. Polls revealed that voters are increasingly dissatisfied with the way that the government is addressing this issue. In light of this dissatisfaction, passing the job stimulus bill would be especially advantageous for President Obama and Democratic lawmakers, who face imminent political challenges in this year's midterm elections. (Re-I Chin)

International

China suspending military exchanges with US

Following a \$6.4 billion arms deal between the United States and Taiwan, China's Defense Ministry made the decision to suspend visits between the Chinese and U.S. armed forces. According to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, the decision was made "in consideration of the serious harm and impacts on the Sino-U.S. military relations" that the arms deal invoked.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei said that the deal was a "rude interference in China's internal affairs, severely endangering China's national security" and that China expressed its "strong indignation."

The receiving end of the arms deal is Taiwan, which neither China nor the U.S. recognize as a sovereign nation. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said that the deal was part of the U.S. government's commitment "to provide Taiwan with defensive weapons it needs and as provided for in the Taiwan Relations Act."

During the decades-long standoff, China has claimed Taiwan to be a part of its territory and has threatened to invade Taiwan if it ever declares independence. The United States has stated that it will protect Taiwan if such an invasion ever occurs. (Sally Wang)

quoteoftheday

"This is an incredible step for the University in showing its support for students' desires and students' needs."

Chase Sackett, speaker of the Senate, on extending gender-neutral housing

Missouri poverty on the rise in midst of recession

Alaa Itani
Staff Reporter

In light of the economic downturn, family dependence on food stamps has grown significantly in Missouri from August 2008 to August 2009. According to a study published by the Brookings Institution and First Focus in December, nearly 150,000 additional people relied on these Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for food purchases.

The study, which compares child poverty rates to the need for food stamp benefits, found that 3.4 million more children

received food stamps nationally. Nearly half of SNAP participants are now children, and one in five children under the age of 18 lives in poverty.

"Poverty is associated with a variety of health complications for children like asthma, lead poisoning and so on," said Mark Rank, professor of social welfare.

Rank also said that children living in poverty might be undernourished, affecting their performance at school.

"If you're a kid, you're going to school, but you're not getting all the nutrients you need," Rank said. "It can affect your ability to learn and to do well in school."

Currently, Mississippi has the highest rate of child poverty at 30.4 percent, and New Hampshire has the lowest rate at 9 percent. In Missouri, 18.6 percent of children rely on food stamps. Southern states overall continue to face higher levels of poverty due to a lack of economic opportunity.

Findings were based on Census Bureau statistics of poverty rates within the United States from 2008 to 2009. Poverty levels are predicted to rise, even several years after the economy improves.

Rank believes that the U.S. government still isn't doing enough to alleviate poverty.

"We have the highest rates of poverty in the developed world, the most extreme economic inequality in the developed world, [and] we have the weakest social safety net in the world," Rank said. "We do the least in terms of social policy, really of any other developed country, in terms of trying to help families get out of poverty, in trying to help kids that are in poverty."

Those eligible to receive SNAP benefits have an income lower than 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Due to the increase in SNAP participants and rises in inflation, the Congressional Budget Office plans to allocate an additional \$34 billion

to pay for food stamps. The stimulus bill had already budgeted \$20 billion for spending on food stamp benefits until 2019.

According to Rank, SNAP still doesn't provide enough support for families in economically insecure situations. Providing universal health care—especially for children—is only one of the many social policies Rank believes the government needs to provide in order to have poverty rates similar to other developed countries.

Sophomore Kenith Dsouza hopes that Washington University students will respond to the worsening situation in Missouri.

"Having lived in India and

seen poverty firsthand, I feel like it's our responsibility to help those who are less fortunate than us," Dsouza said. "We have to be aware of the fact that we need to do more so that tragedies like poverty don't happen."

Rank encourages students to be involved politically in order to improve social service programs.

"Students can think about it from a political and policy point of view—how can they mobilize and put pressure on the political system to create some changes?" Rank said. "Poverty is not an issue of 'them' but it's really an issue of 'us.' Everyone is affected by these high rates of poverty."

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NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Nominations for Honorary Degree Recipients for the May 2011 Commencement are being sought by the Honorary Degree Committee.

This committee is composed of students, faculty, administrators and Trustees and will meet this April to consider nominations. Candidates should be distinguished men and women who have made outstanding contributions to their fields or served Washington University or the St. Louis Community in an outstanding way.

Nominations, with a brief biography, should be sent to:

HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE
Box 1081
or by e-mail to:
Ida_Early@wustl.edu

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010.

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Regional project aims to increase college enrollment

Hillary Black
Contributing Reporter

The St. Louis Regional College Access Pipeline Project is coordinating the efforts of local businesses, foundations and institutions of higher education to increase college enrollment in St. Louis.

The project, which began in 2008, specifically targets low-income students. St. Louis currently ranks 24th out of the 35 largest metropolitan regions in the country in the proportion of its population that has a baccalaureate degree.

"The work that we did does target low-income students both because we think it's the best and right thing to do and also because if you look at the demographics for this region, that is where the potential is for greatest growth," said Faith Sandler, co-chair of the

project's steering committee and executive director of the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

To gather research for the project, representatives conducted informational interviews with every university in the St. Louis metropolitan area, as well as with colleges and universities that serve a large proportion of students from the St. Louis metropolitan area, such as the University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri State University. Washington University provided support during the initial stages of the project.

Leah Merrifield, special assistant to the chancellor for diversity initiatives, supported the project during its early stages by serving as a representative from both the University and from College Bound, a college access and completion program in St. Louis.

"It really was a matter of having some key players in the

St. Louis region who have been working on these issues and really wanting to see the state do something more," Merrifield said.

Washington University remains involved with the project today.

"[The University] continues to be a place people choose to come to get their degrees, and we are a net importer of talent," said Rob Wild, assistant to the chancellor. "We recruit a certain number of people from the region, and many, many more stay...here and join the workforce."

Increasing the number of people in St. Louis with college degrees has implications for the local economy because it will make St. Louis a more desirable place for businesses that want to hire employees, Wild added.

The low proportion of students with college degrees is not exclusively an urban issue. North St. Louis County also has a low

proportion of students with college degrees, and the more rural Jefferson and Franklin counties often see students graduating high school and not pursuing a college education.

"If we're going to compete to attract business to this region, if we're going to compete to keep youth within the region...then the way we're going to do that is to reach the entire population," Sandler said.

The project has already achieved results by informing the public, from the media and legislators to local people in St. Louis. Representatives from the project held a public forum on Oct. 7, 2009, in which Greg Darnieder, special assistant on college access in the U.S. Department of Education, spoke on the issue.

"We've seen first of all that the community is really hungry for the information," Sandler said.

The project will continue to

work to achieve its goal: reaching the threshold of 50 percent of St. Louis's adult population having a baccalaureate degree or a post-secondary degree by 2020.

"In order to do that, we set forth six strategies that we think really all have to be in place, ranging from a better statewide data collection effort to creating in high schools a college-going culture where there's an expectation that students can, in fact, pursue something beyond their high school diploma," Sandler said.

Wild stressed the importance of the project for the region's future.

"We are going to be a stronger region when more of our residents have access to high-quality higher education opportunities," Wild said. "It's just really important for our future economic stability that we continue to find ways to get more of our population educated with a college degree."

STUDENT LIFE

One Brookings Drive #1039
#330 Danforth University
Center
Saint Louis, MO 63130-4899

News: (314) 935-5995
Advertising: (314) 935-6713
Fax: (314) 935-5938
e-mail: editor@studlife.com
www.studlife.com
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Green majors blossom across nation

Kelly Fahy
Staff Reporter

Being green is becoming cooler as academic institutions see an increasing number of students majoring in the fields of environment and sustainability. According to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), more than 100 majors, minors and certificates were created at a variety of universities nationwide over the past year.

"I think it's really exciting," said senior Will Fischer, Student Union's executive adviser for sustainability, leader of the Green Events Commission, and co-chair of the Special Executive Task Force for Sustainable Events. "It mirrors a nationwide increase in awareness of the idea of sustainability. I think it's wonderful because I

think universities need to pioneer the development of a more sustainable world. We are training the next generation of thinkers, scientists and engineers. It only makes sense that we follow what will be the big problems in our world."

Many students nationwide are enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage academically in environmental issues.

"I don't think there's a significantly larger number of students who are interested in this here than at comparable universities," Fischer said. "I feel like we're pretty average in that concern. I think we're feeling the interest a lot of universities are feeling right now."

Student interest in "green" academic fields is rising due to the increased awareness of the importance of sustainability, according to Green Action President Peter Murrey.

"It's really just an interest in the environment, realizing that we as a generation are at a crossroads," said Murrey, a junior. "We are going to determine the future of how we interact with our planet. We need to be knowledgeable about how the planet works, how businesses work and how we, in general, impact our surroundings, and how the surroundings impact us as well."

Additionally, the applicability of sustainability issues to a wide variety of fields makes it an appealing subject to study.

"[Environmental programs are] highly applicable to so many other disciplines: environmental economics, business, chemistry, philosophy," Murrey said. "Students who traditionally had an interest in these fields and were interested in the environment before now couldn't exercise that interest in the environment. But now

they can broaden their horizons and incorporate the environment into these fields."

At Washington University, there has been a marked increase in interest in environmentally focused classes over the past decade. The number of students enrolled in the environmental studies major, for example, has doubled over the past 10 years.

Many other departments are offering classes that incorporate environmental perspectives into other fields as well. For instance, in the political science department, students can take a course titled Environmental and Energy Issues. The engineering school offers courses on "Green Engineering."

"Just about any class you can take is going to apply in some way to the environment," Murrey said. "You can make your coursework fit a sustainable lifestyle," Murrey said.

Another reason students are choosing environmentally focused majors more than ever before is the demand in the workforce for employees with those skills. According to the AASHE, the Obama administration predicts that "green" jobs will grow by 52 percent from 2000 to 2016.

"I hope that in the next couple of years we will see growth in what we want to call the 'green economy,' and the idea of 'green collar' jobs," Fischer said. "Hopefully, that ideal will start to really show itself, and jobs and positions all around the world will start to open up to people of all sorts of fields in developing renewable technologies, implementing renewable technologies [and] driving policy decisions. While it seems like a trend right now, it seems like a fad, I'm confident that it's here to stay."

DANFORTH from page 1

The funding comes in the midst of a great inflow of stimulus funding. As of Dec. 31, 2009, prior to receiving the grant, the University received 236 individual awards, totaling over \$83 million, with only \$16 million spent. Much of the funding has gone to the medical school, but the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Engineering and

the School of Social Work have each received a notable amount.

Goldstein said that the research team is excited that the work got support from the stimulus.

"We're elated," Goldstein said. "We worked very hard to put together a quality team and we're just thrilled that the Department of Energy recognized...the

skills of that team and provided us the award."

In his statement, William Danforth, the chairman of the board of the center, was similarly excited for the funding of the project.

"I am delighted that Dick Sayre and Jose Olivares of our institution will be leading the consortium that will be doing this important work," Danforth's statement read. "The award also triggers a \$16 million industry match and comes on the heels of significant investment in St. Louis by the Department of Energy last year. Our region is playing a leading role in our nation's efforts to create a domestic bioindustry, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and preserve the environment."

The center carries out research related to increasing agricultural production and increasing the nutritional content of plants to improve the human condition and also promote economic growth in the St. Louis region since its founding in 1998.



COURTESY OF DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center will receive millions of dollars for project funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Monetary Policy Amid Economic Turbulence

Weidenbaum Center Forum

Event is free & open to the public

Friday, February 5, 2010
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Please register online at <http://wc.wustl.edu>

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Richard Sylla, Henry Kaufman Professor of the History of Financial Institutions and Markets, New York University

Panel Discussion Featuring:

Costas Azariadis, Edward Mallinckrodt Professor of Economics, Washington University in St. Louis
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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

New Village hours are mmm-mmm good

Wash. U.'s Dining Services has managed to come up with some positive news for the new semester: better hours at the Village. The stir-fry station's hours have been extended from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and the Village Grill is open until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. With the later closing times comes a larger variety of items; students, for example, can now purchase breakfast items

late at night at the Village. On the South 40, new menu items such as spring rolls and an improved turkey burger are now available, and calzones have debuted at the DUC.

Our pens and stomachs have nothing but praise for this good news. The announcement means flaming stir-fried vegetables, rice and meat for a late dinner. It means a Philly cheesesteak sandwich and tater tots between parties on Frat Row. And it's worth noting that the later hours

help narrow the clear divide between food service for undergrads on the South 40 and service for upperclassmen on the North Side. We want to commend Bon Appétit and Student Union—particularly Greg Schweizer, the former chair of the Senate Campus Services committee, who led the drive for extended hours—for listening to students. We asked for better hours, and they have accommodated.

We realize the new hours aren't wholly beneficial. Students

can no longer grab dinner at Trattoria Verde or DelicOSO at the DUC after 8 p.m. on Friday, though they were previously open until 8:30. More importantly, the Village chefs and other employees must work later hours. We ask that Wash. U. students keep in mind what these workers are giving up to keep the place open.

The fact that Bon Appétit is willing to make these changes shows its willingness to listen. The company-wide tomato controversy notwithstanding,

Nadeem Siddiqui, Paul Schimmele and the entire Bon Appétit management team have consistently demonstrated attention to students' wishes. Following a forum held last semester, in which students voiced their opinions directly to Dining Services officials, Bon Appétit enacted a gratifying number of changes. When the eateries on the South 40 didn't live up to students' expectations, Bon Appétit stepped in with old favorites and a faster ordering system. When

undergraduates decided Companion bagels were inferior to ones from Einstein Bros., Bon Appétit reintroduced the latter at Whispers Café.

True, these reforms took a lot of time to implement, and the new Village hours are simply a pilot program. Nevertheless, they have happened, and for that, Bon Appétit—especially its employees who have committed to serving students' needs—deserves the student body's gratitude.

Why Washington University should consider starting a Division I basketball program



BECKY ZHAO | STUDENT LIFE

Andrew Gottlieb
Staff Columnist

College athletics, particularly basketball and football, were my main source of entertainment during the duller moments of winter break. While I enjoyed and appreciated the great skills of the players and coaches, I never had an avid interest in who won each game. In one instance, I watched an Illinois-versus-Northwestern basketball game with friends from both universities. I sat there not knowing who to root for as each of my friends cheered on their respective teams. This was a little bit saddening and turned frustrating as the games drew on. In my frustration I began asking myself the question: Why is Wash. U. not involved in the excitement that is Division I athletics?

When it comes to whether Wash. U. should establish a Division I program, there are two questions: Why, and how? I will address the "Why?" question first. While I do not aim to offend our Division III student athletes, there is simply no comparison between Division I and Division III athletics. One needs only to watch an episode of SportsCenter and attend a Wash. U. football game to know that. All the glamour, glory and, yes, money is in Division I athletics. There are many benefits of a Division I

program, benefits in areas that I would argue Wash. U. is sadly lacking. These benefits include increased school spirit, increased alumni involvement and better national name recognition, among others. There can be no argument that certain schools are nationally well known because of their successful athletic programs. Recent examples that come to mind include Davidson College and Appalachian State, universities few would know of if not for their recent athletic successes. Increased name recognition positively impacts universities, particularly when attracting applicants and donations. By watching, and especially attending, other universities' athletic events, I know firsthand how much school spirit and pride a successful sports team can generate. This spirit would linger even in alumni's hearts and minds. For these reasons and others, there can be little doubt of the serious upside of having a competitive athletic program.

Detractors from Division I sports programs might argue that Division I programs come at the expense of academic excellence. The argument goes that sports programs require admitting unqualified students and are bound to drag down a school's academic reputation. I would refer any such detractors to the examples of Stanford and Duke, two prestigious private research institutions that share many

characteristics with Wash. U. in addition to supporting perennially successful sports programs. In addition to those who say sports come at the expense of academics, others will point to the ugly aspects of Division I athletics, including the recruiting scandals and other unethical behavior that plague certain Division I sports programs. But one advantage Wash. U. would have as a newcomer to Division I athletics is the ability to take precautions against scandals from day one, preventing the systemic ethical breakdowns that have plagued other NCAA Division I schools.

Now to the question of "How?" While starting a Division I program is a lofty proposition, there is an established first step that Wash. U. could take toward such a goal. That step would be to start men's and women's Division I basketball programs. Why basketball? The answer is simple: with only about 10 scholarships and some salary money set aside for good coaches, a school can literally buy itself a quality Division I basketball program. This would allow Wash. U. to begin accruing quite a few of the benefits of a Division I program described earlier, at minimal cost. By taking this step, Wash. U. would, in a sense, get its feet wet and provide incentive to invest in a top-division athletics program.

While I recognize that this proposal may seem difficult, it is far from unattainable. Division I athletics at Wash. U. will not happen before I graduate and may never happen at all, but I hope to at least plant a seed in students' minds. The more this vision is discussed, debated and tossed about, the more likely it is to come to fruition. So when you are enjoying Division I athletics in the future, keep asking the question: Why not us?

Andrew is a sophomore in Engineering. He can be reached via e-mail at aygottlieb@gmail.com.

The best kind of activist isn't a politician at all

Alissa Rotblatt
Forum Editor

The best kind of political activist isn't a politician at all. For anyone looking to make a difference or to sway the country with your ideals, take this advice: stay out of politics. We constantly see examples in the media of politicians engaged in never-ending battles to assert their party's inherent superiority over the ideals of the opposition. The relentless nature of this back-and-forth is disguised as an effort to further a cause. In many instances this may be the case; however, as words such as conservative, liberal and even bipartisan are thrown around to sway votes and public opinion, the transparency of politics is extremely evident. Offices in Washington are filled by Republicans, followed by Democrats and followed by Republicans again on the basis of issues that have starred at the forefront of America's consciousness for decades. It seems valid to question whether these "leaders" are indeed capable of representing our country's best interests. In a time of economic, national and moral insecurity, to whom should we look for guidance?

There is no shortage of public figures vying for approval; but the less-published but potentially more-important news is that there are many citizens, both ordinary and extraordinary, who have changed public policy without nasty campaigns and official elections.

One such example is Theodore Olson, a Republican lawyer who has chosen to represent same-sex couples' efforts to overturn California's ban on gay marriage. To say that Ted Olson is a Republican or a conservative

is an understatement. This is the man who headed the Office of Legal Counsel under Ronald Reagan and advised Republicans in their effort to impeach Bill Clinton. He was responsible for George W. Bush's presidency after persuading the Supreme Court in Bush v. Gore and defended the president's claims of expanded powers during wartime.

Yet though Olson is a Republican, he does not blindly subscribe to all notably Republican viewpoints. Olson doesn't follow the knee-jerk reactions many politicians have built careers upon, and when approached by a team looking for a lawyer to challenge Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage in the state, he did not abandon his political principles but rather rose to them.

There is a difference between standing for equal rights and fighting for them. Those who are not quick to jump on any political bandwagon but bring about positive change by thoroughly examining all perspectives exemplify this difference.

Olson's choice to argue on behalf of two gay couples in Perry v. Schwarzenegger, a federal case challenging Proposition 8, wasn't well received by many of his Republican colleagues. Fortunately popularity was never Olson's priority, which highlights a fundamental problem that exists with our current political system. In order to get in the position of making laws and upholding the Constitution, one must adhere to a set of rules. These are not the rules laid out by Jefferson, Madison or Washington when they scripted our nation's principles, nor are they the democratic rules of our government; rather, they are

the rules of a political party, rules that stifle our country's potential.

As a Democrat, I would be lying if I said I fully analyzed every aspect of the issues I've chosen to represent. It is easy to pick a side, develop a belief system and belong. Why second-guess health care and national security? Why not allow Republican ideals to immediately raise red flags in my mind simply because they are Republican?

Olson and many others like him who take the more difficult road and question their own beliefs have shown me why. Olson believes in equality under the Constitution; he believes in freedom from government interference and in individual liberty. These are the rules that drive him. Olson took on the case because he sees gay marriage as a civil-rights issue and has found no legitimate argument for why same-sex couples should be denied the fundamental right to marriage. True to form, he has sought out all perspectives but has found no legal precedent behind the opposition's claims. "They had all sorts of intangible instincts and feelings about what's 'right,'" Olson told Newsweek of both friends' and adversaries' arguments. "But I didn't hear any persuasive response."

The danger of politics stems from the inherent separation it creates. Clear political lines have been drawn and it seems it may take an outsider to cross them. Olson's reasoning is simple: "This is not a conservative or liberal issue; it is an American one, and it is time that we, as Americans, embraced it."

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

The president who has it both ways

Philip Christofanelli
Staff Columnist

Who is President Barack Obama? Some characterize him as the champion of the Left. Others cast him as a shrewd moderate, cunningly attempting to implement practical policies that would work for America. The Krugmans among us regard him as too cautious and conservative to bring about the sort of change he preached ad nauseam during his campaign. There are also those who see Obama as a sort of Fabian socialist, gradually bringing serfdom to America like the great Roman general who battled Hannibal. The strange part is that

everyone seems to be simultaneously correct.

The two economic schools that changed the world, Keynesian and Austrian, manifest themselves in perpetual conflict throughout Obama's first year. Keynesians preach that the government must rise up to stimulate spending when consumers are failing to do so. They see depressions as a decline in demand that the government has the main responsibility to end. Modern-day Keynesians call on the government to become the "buyer of last resort," a phrase used by Robert Reich several days ago on "Larry King Live." To this end, Obama has been a champion of the stimulus, hoping to spend the economy into prosperity.

The Austrian theory poses a

very different idea of how to end a recession. They see recessions as the result of cheap money being circulated by a reckless central banking system. The low-rate loans allow more projects to be started by producers than consumers have the savings to afford to purchase. Recessions are the inevitable wake-up call from rising interest rates that cause producers to retract their projects. Followers of the Austrian school call for allowing the bad debt to be liquidated, not to stimulate production of items that the economy should not be consuming in the first place.

An Austrian would love for the government to end deficit spending. Freeing up the credit markets from government demand means cheaper credit for

the business sector to rebound from its previous state of indulgence. Obama also bought into this theory. He recently called for a bipartisan panel (which failed to materialize) to address the growing deficit. He also wants to freeze domestic spending starting in 2011. Both of these are uniquely conservative ideas, even though no conservatives really believe either will ever happen.

The problem is that these two ideas are completely contradictory. If one really believes that increased spending will help the economy rebound, then deficit spending is wonderful. Deficit spending should be encouraged until the recession is clearly over. If you really believe that reducing the deficit is good plan which frees up credit for entrepreneurs,

then you typically do not go around suggesting that hundreds of billions be spent on bailouts and stimulus. Maybe one of these ideas works. Maybe they both do. But they sure as hell don't work together.

Obama needs to realize that he cannot be all things to all people. Yes, a broad coalition decided to elect Obama over a bimbo and blowhard, but eventually you have to define what it is exactly that you stand for. You cannot be both a supporter of fat-cat bailouts and an ardent populist; you cannot be an anti-war candidate who expands the war in Afghanistan and into Pakistan; you cannot be both Keynes and von Mises.

If Obama does not want to go down in history as the biggest

joke of a president ever, he needs to find a base and stick with it. He's losing moderates with his bank tax, he lost conservatives with health care, and he's going to lose liberals too if he keeps up his deficit attacks. The president's approval ratings will stay up for a while; people are typically hesitant to admit they supported a loser (see: people who still think Bush was an awesome president). If, however, Obama does not find firm ground to stand on soon, he may discover that he's fighting a war without an army, and that is no way to win a midterm election.

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

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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Letters to the Editor
One Brookings Drive #1039
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
News: 314-935-5995

Fax: 314-935-5938
E-mail: letters@studlife.com

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

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SPORTS

TRACK AND FIELD

Men and women have strong finishes at Indiana meet

Michael Rosengart
Sports Reporter

Led by graduate student Pierre Hoppenot, senior Chris Malaya and sophomore Dan Davis, the Washington University men's track and field team took second place at the Rose-Hulman Engineer Invitational this weekend in Terre Haute, Ind., while the women's team finished third.

Monmouth College convincingly won the men's meet with a 182-126 advantage over Wash. U. Monmouth tied with Bellarmine University on the women's side with a score of 143.50, but the Bears, who scored 90 points, stuck to their strengths and managed to earn enough points to return home with a satisfactory result.

The men earned six first-place finishes over 16 events. Hoppenot ran a season-best 22.65 seconds in the 200-meter dash. Malaya posted a 50.61 in the 400-meter dash, and Davis recorded a 7.73 in the 55-meter hurdle. All three are undefeated in their respective events this season.

"It's great confidence moving towards conference," Davis said, "but I know that there's more competition out there, so I have to look

forward to that time when I might have to run a really great race to win." Davis' preliminary mark of 7.70 seconds is just 0.06 seconds shy of the school record.

Head coach Jeff Stiles said, "There's bigger fish to fry. Those guys aren't even close to where we're going to be, and they're intrinsically motivated to keep pushing, so it's great what they're doing, but they're all going to run a lot faster by the end of the season."

Juniors Ben Harmon, Scott Pettit and David Spandorfer also won the long jump (6.67m), pole vault (4.25m) and mile run (4:23.68), respectively. In total, the men's side accumulated 126 points. The men's relay squads also posted encouraging results, with the 4x400 team taking second place and the 4x200 squad taking third.

The women earned 90 points in their third-place finish thanks to solid scoring across the board. Twenty-four athletes managed to earn points, led by freshman Anne Diaz-Arrastia with her second triple-jump victory in as many appearances.

Although the women's squad is currently working to overcome the loss of several talented graduates, the

team has been satisfied with the performances of current athletes.

"I'm very pleased with the way the young athletes are stepping into scoring roles, and I know they'll continue to get substantially better in this season and in the future," Stiles said.

Senior captain Caitlin Hartsell, who runs short and middle distance events, added that many women ran extra events as they "trained through" the Engineer Invitational.

"[The fact that] so many girls still scored across the board despite competing in multiple events is a great sign for our future," Hartsell said.

Other top-three performances included sophomores Erica Jackey and Elisabeth Stocking, who finished second in the 800-meter run and the 400-meter dash, respectively. Both sophomore Catie Reynolds in the 3,000-meter run and the 4x200 squad of Stocking, Diaz-Arrastia, Hartsell and sophomore Molly Wawrzyniak took third place.

The team returns to Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill., over the weekend to begin the second half of the regular season at the Bob Keck Invitational.

VOLLEYBALL

Wash. U. to honor national champions and women's soccer



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

The volleyball team lifts their 2009 NCAA Division III national championship trophy as they celebrate their 3-1 victory over top-ranked Juniata College. The Bears will unveil their championship banner in the Field House at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Hannah Lustman
Sports Editor

The entire country will be celebrating national champions on Sunday, but the day will be more special for several Washington University community members. While most people will be keeping tabs on the NFL matchup between the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, Wash. U. will honor its NCAA Division III national championship volleyball team and national runner-up women's soccer team.

The festivities kick off after the basketball doubleheader against Emory University concludes. At 3 p.m., the 2009 volleyball team will be presented with its championship rings and have its national championship banner unveiled. The banner will join nine other volleyball championship banners. Attractions for fans include national championship posters for all in attendance and T-shirts for a limited number of students and faculty with

an ID card.

The Bears captured their NCAA-record 10th national championship with a 3-1 victory over No. 1 Juniata College on Nov. 21, 2009. Sophomore Lauren Budde was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2009 championship with 15 kills and five blocks in the game. Sophomore Kristen Thomas and freshman Kelly Pang were also tapped for the all-tournament team. The American Volleyball Coaches Association also chose Pang as its Division III National Freshman of the Year.

The 2009 title marked head coach Rich Lueneemann's third victory in the national championship game. Lueneemann was also named AVCA's Division III Coach of the Year.

"It feels good to know that the banner is going to hang there forever," said senior Erin Albers, co-captain of the volleyball team. "[People should] show their support, not just for our team, but for the soccer team because they're deserving."

The University will also honor the 2009 national runner-up women's soccer team. The Bears' appearance in the title game was the first in program history. Wash. U. fell to top-ranked and undefeated defending champion Messiah College 1-0 on Dec. 5, 2009, in San Antonio.

Senior captain Libby Held and fellow senior Caryn Rosoff both earned National Collegiate Soccer Coaches Association of America All-America honors, with Rosoff being named to the first team and Held earning a spot on the second team.

Their squad tied a Wash. U. record with 17 wins en route to their fourth straight UAA championship and national championship game appearance.

"It's a testament to the students the university attracts, but also to the students that it develops during their time here," co-captain of the women's soccer team senior Becca Heymann said.

With additional reporting by
Johann Qua Hiansen

Crew hard at work despite snow and frigid weather



JOHANN QU A H I A N S E N | S T U D E N T L I F E

Junior David Ingber competes at the St. Louis Indoor Racing Championships as junior Becky Chanis, sophomore Gryte Satas and junior Stephen Washburn cheer him on. Washington University's crew team hosted the event in the Francis Gymnasium of the Athletic Complex on Jan. 30. The race pits individuals against each other on erg machines as they rowed for 2,500 meters. There were heats at the varsity, novice, junior and masters levels for both genders. Ingber competed against other coxswains for 500 meters. "It's more setting the baseline," senior captain Jewell Thomas said. According to Thomas, the Bears are moving into their most intensive practices of the season in preparation for spring competition.

sportsbrief

Women's basketball sweeps weekend

After a 63-51 loss at Rochester that snapped a 13-game win streak, the No. 3 women's basketball team rebounded with a victory over Emory University on Sunday in Atlanta. Senior Zoë Unruh led the Bears in the 70-60 win with a career-high 25 points. The two teams ended the first half tied at 37, and the Bears overcame several lead changes to secure the game. After a loss by the University of Chicago earlier in the day, the Red and Green claimed sole possession of first place in the University Athletic Association standings. Coverage of both games can be found in Wednesday's issue of Student Life. (Hannah Lustman)

CADENZA

Why Wash. U. is lucky to have WUSLAM

Percy Olsen
Senior Cadenza Editor

Last semester, I took The Art of Poetry with professor Steven Meyer. We read Wordsworth and Coleridge and “The Opening of the Field” by Robert Duncan, but the most impressive thing we read was William Empson’s “Seven Types of Ambiguity.” Empson was an arrogant dude—there is no doubt about it. But he had good reason to be. He was a brilliant literary scholar, and, most impressively, he made it clear throughout his work of criticism that he had literally memorized all of the poems and plays he was citing.

Imagine that. He had all of “Hamlet” memorized, every line of Wordsworth packed into his brain. And, as I was trudging through his thick prose, I realized that no one nowadays has entire anthologies dedicated to memory, always ready for regurgitation.

It’s not our fault. Currently, poetry just doesn’t have the exposure it once had. In an age when MTV dictates what facets of culture

we attend to, music videos have emerged in lieu of written poetry.

So what’s the problem with poetry? Why doesn’t it thrive on cable television? (Another question: Are the poems too good to be on MTV? But more on that later...) The answer to the first two questions: performance. As in, a lack of it. Poetry is thought of as being paper-bound and two-dimensional, in more ways than one. A medium like television emphasizes and actually requires the performance, and there is nothing performative about a white piece of paper with some lines scribbled on it.

That is what makes The Grand Slam so fantastic. It brings poetry to the masses, without distilling the essence or dumbing down the lyrics. If anything, the performances enhance the poet’s tone and message, placing a human touch behind rhymed words. If you thought a poet had to be Emily Dickinson, holed up in her room while her mom sends her sandwiches on a pulley system, The Grand Slam would like to have a few

choice words with you.

There are poets living all around us, with words pent up, and without many places to say them. The Grand Slam in the DUC was that place on Saturday night. The house was packed; there were enough attendees to warrant an additional live feed of the event in the Fun Room. Students spilled over the railings.

Eruptions of snaps and cheers served as reminders that The Grand Slam isn’t just about the poets: It’s about the audience, too. The poet has to find himself through the poem, but the poet’s self-discovery means nothing if the poet can’t make a connection with the audience. Make no mistake, every poet on Saturday night connected with the audience.

And suddenly it seems silly to have compared a poetry performance to a music video in the first place. The energy in these slams is unmatched and surpasses anything MTV can produce. WUSLAM is new, but more importantly it’s fresh, and you can tell that the Slammers loved it. The Slamily rocked the house.

‘Guys, where are we?’ A look into the last season of ‘Lost’

Andie Hutner
Cadenza TV Editor

On Sept. 22, 2004, Oceanic Flight 815 crashed over the ocean on a flight from Sydney to Los Angeles. Luckily, no one actually died on this flight, and it instead launched a television phenomenon that has changed American popular culture over the past five years. That night, the series premiere of “Lost” aired.

The final season is beginning tomorrow night, and the last five seasons have been a very wild ride. (By the way, here’s a spoiler alert.) In the pilot episode, we encountered a polar bear living on a tropical island. We’ve also seen clashes with violent island natives, rafts burning, ideological fights between science and faith, character deaths that made us cry (Not Penny’s Boat!) and not nearly enough shirtless Sawyer. OK, maybe that last one just bothered me. But if only these were the end of our castaways’ troubles. In the last few seasons, everything has gotten a little weirder. Most characters have time-traveled, some have turned a wheel and ended up in Tunisia, and one has even been killed by his own mother, before he was even born. (Like I said, time travel.) As

Faraday said many times last year, “Whatever happened, happened.” But as the end of last season asks, what happens when you try to change the future irrevocably?

Season 5 ended with Juliet setting off a hydrogen bomb in 1977, changing the lives of everyone who has ever been on the island. Or did the bomb just kill most of the main characters? That would be a pretty boring final season. Season 6, therefore, has to be a major game-changer to keep things interesting. Tuesday’s premiere is called “LA X,” invoking only one thing: the Los Angeles airport code where Flight 815 was supposed to land. Casting spoilers have me especially intrigued—dead characters like Charlie, Boone and Michael are rumored to come back for at least a few episodes. Since season 1, fans have guessed the island to be a realm of purgatory, and the return of these people seems to hint toward this solution. But I’m hoping that’s not the case.

Season 2 introduced island mythology. Season 3 focused on “the others,” the island natives who live in houses and are actually quite civilized. Season 4 told the story of the Oceanic Six through flash-forwards, and season 5 broke my mind by trying to explain the

theoretical physics of time travel. Season 6 will surely do something crazy, and I’m guessing we’re going to be watching alternative realities. If the island did not exist in 2004, it could not have used its electromagnetic activity to draw our characters in. The plane would have landed safely in California, just like the episode title suggests. Charlie would not have drowned, Sawyer would have stayed a con man, Claire would have given up her baby for adoption, and so on.

But that’s no fun. Are we really ready to give up the character development we have all observed over the last five seasons? No, of course not. As far as I know, the island could have flashed the minute Juliet set off the bomb, and the blinding white light could have sent everyone to a safer time. Hey, anything is possible on this island.

The two-hour episode starts at 8 p.m. Tuesday night on ABC, and there is a one-hour recap beforehand. Tune in to hopefully get some answers. Did Ben really kill Jacob? Who inhabited Locke’s body all season? What lies in the shadow of the statue, after all? And really, what sort of reality are we going to be watching? I, for one, am dying to watch the season unfold.

Oscar, please consider...

Alex Terrono
Cadenza Movie Editor

On Tuesday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will announce their nominations for the 82nd annual Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars. This year’s nominations are particularly notable as it will be the first year the Best Picture category has 10 nominees instead of the usual five. Many predict that the expansion of this category will allow for some more left-field choices to enter the race, and while there may be some less-ordinary nominees, many of the “frontrunners” seem to be the usual Oscar bait. Even so, I would like to plead the cases of a few potential nominees in various categories.



FRANCOIS DUHAMEL | UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Christoph Waltz (*Colonel Hans Landa*) stars in *Quentin Tarantino’s “Inglourious Basterds.”*

Best Picture

Most likely nominees:

“Avatar,” “District 9,” “An Education,” “The Hurt Locker,” “Inglourious Basterds,” “Invictus,” “Precious,” “Star Trek,” “Up,” “Up in the Air”

Please consider:

If I had to pick one film to be added to the category, it would have to be the indie comedy “(500) Days of Summer.” While it may not be the typical Oscar movie, considering its lighthearted tone and lack of prestige, it has won a place in the hearts of many. “Summer” is cleverly written, original, cute, funny, irresistible and perfect, and the list could go on. Zoey Deschanel and Joseph Gordon-Levitt are captivating as the happily-never-after couple at the center of this jumbled not-so-romantic comedy. The movie shines as one of the gems of last year.

Also consider:

“Bright Star,” “A Single Man”

Best Supporting Actor

Most likely nominees:

Matt Damon (“Invictus”), Woody Harrelson (“The Messenger”), Christopher Plummer (“The Last Station”), Stanley Tucci (“The Lovely Bones”), Christoph Waltz (“Inglourious Basterds”)

Please consider:

It is unclear to me why Peter Sarsgaard from “An Education” is not getting any attention. He is an entertaining and essential part of an extraordinary film. He perfectly embodies a carefree, selfish married man, who seduces a 16-year-old girl into falling in love with him.

Also consider:

Brian Geraghty and Anthony Mackie (“The Hurt Locker”), Matthew Goode (“A Single Man”)

Best Actress

Most likely nominees:

Sandra Bullock (“The Blind Side”), Helen Mirren (“The Last Station”), Carey Mulligan (“An Education”), Gabourey Sidibe (“Precious”), Meryl Streep (“Julie & Julia”)

Please consider:

Some may not consider Zoë Saldana’s performance in “Avatar” a real “performance.” It is true that the digitally produced Na’vi character, Neytiri, is not strictly Saldana. It is, however, her emotions, facial expressions and voice that bring Neytiri to life. Aside from the amazing visual effects, Neytiri is one of the best parts of this movie. She drives the plot and holds the audience’s attention. While many complain about the plot of this film, it is Zoë Saldana who really brings the whole movie together.

Also consider:

Abbie Cornish (“Bright Star”), Emily Blunt (“The Young Victoria”)

Best Actor

Most likely nominees:

Jeff Bridges (“Crazy Heart”), George Clooney (“Up in the Air”), Colin Firth (“A Single Man”), Morgan Freeman (“Invictus”), Jeremy Renner (“The Hurt Locker”)

Please consider:

Fox Searchlight’s “Adam” went by fairly unnoticed this summer, most likely due to its very limited release. Unfortunately, this also meant that Hugh Dancy, who stars as the film’s eponymous main character, was passed by in the Oscar discussions. Dancy is phenomenal as a newly parentless man living with Asperger’s syndrome in Manhattan. He is emotional, riveting and Oscar-worthy.

Also consider:

Sam Rockwell (“Moon”), Ben Winshaw (“Bright Star”)

Best Supporting Actress

Most likely nominees:

Vera Farmiga (“Up in the Air”), Anna Kendrick (“Up in the Air”), Diane Kruger (“Inglourious Basterds”), Mo’Nique (“Precious”), Julianne Moore (“A Single Man”)

Please consider:

In playing a recent widow of a soldier, Samantha Morton is absolutely riveting in “The Messenger.” She gives an emotionally charged performance that is undeniably one of the best of the year.

Also consider:

Sigourney Weaver (“Avatar”), Maggie Gyllenhaal (“Crazy Heart”)



COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX | MCT

Cadenza hopes that Zoë Saldana’s performance as Neytiri in “Avatar” earns her an Oscar nomination.

SCENE

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

Sasha Fine
Scene Reporter

Walking into a contemporary art museum is always a bit of an adventure. You don't know exactly what to expect, only that it will be something very different from what is classically defined as "art." With its current exhibitions, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis does not fail to deliver that journey. Its two main exhibitions, "1991-1994, Improbable History" by Sean Landers and "Modern Movie Pop" by Stephen Prina, are definitely works from the contemporary world of art.

The exhibits are introduced by a "Front Room," which is a sort of mini-exhibition, featuring one work from a different artist. The current piece, on display until Feb. 28, is by the Norwegian artist Torbjørn Redlined. Consisting of four silver gelatin prints, the work focuses on the British comic strip character Andy Capp, an individual often invoked by Norwegian politicians as a sort of archetypal plebeian. Redlined places Capp in four odd and, frankly, confusing situations, thus demonstrating the pervasiveness of the common folk. The works serve as a lead-in to the exhibition, a sort of "everyman" to guide the public inward into the museum.

The first of the two main exhibits is "1991-1994, Improbable History." Opening with "Tricast (Funeral for a Friend by Elton John)," the artist sings three different, very off-key renditions of the song simultaneously on three different screens.

Echoing throughout the gallery, the work serves as an anthem for the exhibit. Continuing into the body of the exhibition, the viewer is greeted by several leaves of paper: One is a letter from a debt collection agency regarding payments due by Landers from the early '90s,

and the others are Landers' response to them, detailing how he would love to become a productive member of society and repay them, but at this point lacks the financial solvency to do so. This sets the tone for the exhibit: It is simultaneously deeply personal, given the nature of the letter, but, at the same time, removed, because of both the time difference and the fact that it is merely cold text, rather than something more interactive.

The rest of the exhibit is an adventure into the life and mind of Landers. Highlights of the exhibit include "Naked in Nature," 58 photographs of Landers, well, naked in nature. Perhaps the most telling work is a video titled "Dancing with Death," in which the artist dances around his studio looking for all the world like a hippie, complete with long hair, on acid. Video and photography are only one aspect of the exhibition, however.

Throughout the exhibit, there are several large boards with Landers' scrawl littered across it, given such names as "Fart." The most notable of these is "Thought Bubble," an enormous work. Located on a wall in the rear of the exhibit, the piece brings to mind "The Last Judgment," Michelangelo's fresco on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel, despite Landers' distinctly non-religious approach. Besides the obvious—both works are very large and hang at the back of a large room with a lot of open space—they each reveal more to the viewer when approached and studied than is immediately apparent.

Many more works bear mention, but these are enough to understand the basic design of the exhibit: an escapade into the psyche of the artist as a creator, and nature of self-examination. "1991-1994, Improbable History" is on display until April 11.

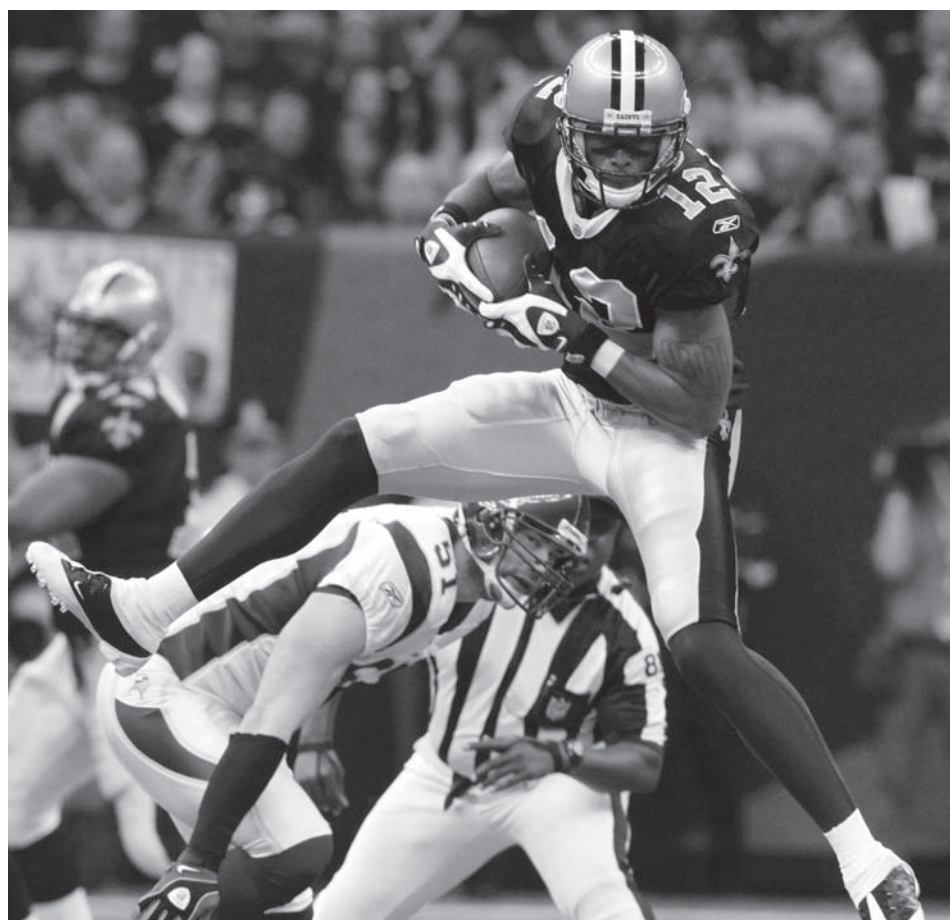
'THE HAPS: ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?'

Kristen Klempert
Scene Events Columnist

It's that time of year again: time for million-dollar commercials, hyped-up halftime shows and some good ol' American football. The Super Bowl, for those who don't already know, is at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday on CBS. The teams fighting for glory this year are the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, with The Who performing during halftime.

If you're the type of person who likes to get out there on Super Bowl Sunday, shout, and eat wings with strangers, there are plenty of places in St. Louis to catch the game. Not too far from campus, there's Highlander Pub and Grill, 5656 Oakland Ave., which was rated St. Louis' number one sports bar by the Riverfront Times. The establishment plans to have a DJ before and after the game, as well as food and drink specials. In this cold weather, Highlander is definitely out of walking distance and there's no Metro stop nearby. But there are buses that go by the bar. Some of Highlander's menu pays homage to its Celtic roots, but it also has regular bar favorites as well.

Want more of a traditional American bar? Try Tom's Bar & Grill in the Central West End. Located at 20 S. Euclid Ave., Tom's is close to the Central West End Metro stop. The bar has great food, and I recommend their burgers or the club sandwich. Tom's has the atmosphere of an every-one-knows-everyone bar, which always has customers laughing and shouting like



JOHN FITZHUGH | BILOXI SUN-HERALD | MCT

Super Bowl XLIV will be played Sunday at 5:30 p.m. between the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts.

they're old friends. If you're like me and don't really feel like facing the world on Sunday (my beloved Dolphins lost all hope for this season around week nine), then you can always plan a party at your dorm or apartment. This would probably be the preferable way to enjoy the Super Bowl if you're really only in it for the GoDaddy.com commercials. You can still enjoy all the game-day cuisine, however. Places close

to campus offer delivery and take-out of all types on the big day. For wings, I recommend getting a carryout order from Cicero's on the Delmar Loop: The wings are the classic get-sauce-all-over-your-fingers-and-face style. Cicero's entire menu is available for carryout so you can get orders of their cheese fries or potato skins. For pizza, there is always Pointer's, which offers hand-tossed pizzas, including the famous 28-inch

Pointersaurus pizza. There's also Imo's, which has traditional St. Louis thin crust. Both places deliver to and around campus.

Whether you realized it was coming or not, the Super Bowl is now upon us. As an American college student, you might as well go out and enjoy it. Consume greasy food and bad beer; laugh at ridiculous commercials; and yell proudly at the refs on TV, even if they'll never hear you.

Other happenings...

Trivia Titans @ J. Buck's, Feb. 2 and every Tuesday at J. Buck's in Clayton, 101 S. Hanley Rd., 7 p.m.

• Free trivia on Tuesdays with great prizes for the top teams and the best happy hour prices in Clayton on food and drinks. Naughti Gras, Feb. 5-6 at Koken Art Factory, 2500 Ohio Ave., 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

• An erotic art show that guarantees to be a good time with free food, cash bar and music. Admission costs \$5. Marleyfest, Feb. 5-6 at Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar Blvd., 8 p.m.

• Celebration of Bob Marley's music and beliefs of peace and unity with local reggae band, Murder City Band. Tickets cost \$15.

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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 FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Cribbage pieces
- Shaving gel alternative
- More than disliked
- Power co. product
- "Tickle me" doll
- Texas mission to remember
- Volcano feature
- Equestrian's control
- Organizes alphabetically, say
- Broadway premiere
- card stud
- Corp. honcho
- Natural spring
- Making lots of noise
- Genealogist's chart
- No-treat consequence?
- Speech impediment
- Arises (from)
- Till bills
- Like draft beer
- 1492 Atlantic crosser
- Start of a wide-area police radio alert
- Artist Yoko
- By way of
- Athletic shoe's turf grabber
- Seating for extra guests, maybe
- Yell
- club: singing group
- Decisive victory
- Lower in esteem
- Name on many Irish coins
- Far Eastern detective played by Lorre
- Texas Hold 'em, e.g., and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- Boys
- British weapon of WWII

DOWN

- Bill: legendary cowboy
- Romeo or Juliet, marriage-wise
- Swiss city on the Rhone
- First part of an act
- Plant with fronds
- Designer Cassini
- Ugandan dictator
- Seles of tennis
- Discuss thoroughly
- Often
- La Brea stuff
- CPR giver, often
- Hair styles
- MIT, for one: Abbr.
- Berlin's land: Abbr.
- Porous organ
- Brownish purple
- Inquires
- Tax-auditing org.
- Keep after taxes
- Davis who played Thelma
- Magnon
- Bonkers
- Words before instant or emergency
- WWII invasion city
- Good bud
- Military greeting
- Wyoming's — Range
- Firecracker cord
- Hip bones
- Socially inept type
- Thousands, in a heist
- Maple syrup base
- "True Blood" network
- Acorn's destiny

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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

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Park Clayton Apartments
Park Station
Park Val Apartments
Stanford Place Apartments
West End Terrace Apartments
Fairmont/Monticello
Montclair on the Park
London Properties
Bel-Aire Apartments
Geneva Apartments
Oak Park Apartments
Southwood Apartments
The President
The Park Royal
Red Brick Management
BLU City Spaces
STL Apartments
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Convent Gardens
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