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Yozamp wins 'Jeopardy!' title

Michelle Merlin
& Brian Krigsher
Student Life Editors

Washington University students and faculty alike have been captivated by Wash. U. student Nick Yozamp's appearances on the popular televised game show "Jeopardy!" So when the final game was shown in the DUC Commons, everyone held their breath, rooting for the Wash. U.'s knight in school-spirited sweatshirt armor.

Yozamp pulled through, winning the \$100,000 grand prize and some positive attention for the University. Ryan Stoffers, a sophomore at University of California, Los Angeles, finished second in the competition, winning \$50,000. Surya Sabhapathy, a senior at University of Michigan, won \$26,600 for finishing third.

"I was surprised that so many people showed up for the viewing, and with each correct response people were cheering and everything," Yozamp said of the DUC viewing, immediately after winning. He was showered in confetti and hoisted upon student's shoulders, as a brief chant of "Nick,

Nick, Nick" filled the air.

"It was really electric all throughout the DUC," junior Alex Christensen said. "There were a lot of people here, and we were cheering for every answer that he got right."

Though Yozamp got the Final "Jeopardy!" question wrong, he planned his wager so that he won anyway.

"It was hard when the Final "Jeopardy!" answer was revealed and I was incorrect," Yozamp said. "I'm like 'Oh, I'm going to be so embarrassed,' but the redeeming quality was that I did win in the end, so it wasn't too bad."



Both Stoffers and Sabhapathy correctly answered the Final "Jeopardy!" question: "These two men first meet in 1 Samuel 16 when one becomes aware of the musical talent of the other." The correct response was "Who are Saul and David?" Yozamp responded "Who are Ramses and David?" but retained more than \$10,000, which was added to his \$20,000 total from Thursday's episode.

Yozamp was in the audience at the DUC, unbeknownst to many students.

"I didn't realize he was sitting here until the final question," sophomore Bernell Nevil said. "He was right there. He knew if he won or not. It was definitely exciting. It will help people know we're in St. Louis, and not Seattle or D.C."

College

"Jeopardy!" differs from normal "Jeopardy!" not only in the contestants' ages, but in the attitude they bring with them to the game.

"Often in our regular games a player sees their score and imagines what bills could be paid with the money," Maggie Speak, the show's contestant producer, wrote in an e-mail to Student Life. "Although I'm sure a lot of our students could use the money for college loans, etc., they seem to really understand that this is a game and they tend to play it more for fun than cash."

Yozamp plans to spend part of his winnings on his study abroad program in France this summer. The rest will help him pay for medical school.

Still, for Yozamp there is more to playing than money.

"The best part about "Jeopardy!" is not the money nor is it the recognition," Yozamp wrote in an e-mail to Student Life. "The best part is the game itself. Playing the game in the studio is exponentially more fun than playing "Jeopardy!" at home. The most difficult aspect of the experience is not having been able to tell anyone how I did on the show."



MATT LANTER | STUDENT LIFE

Top: Junior Nick Yozamp is hoisted in the air after winning the "Jeopardy!" College Championship on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. Yozamp won \$100,000 in the final match. Bottom: Students react to the outcome of the Final "Jeopardy!" round in which Nick Yozamp won the "Jeopardy!" College Championship.

WU alum is among the dead in Alabama college shooting

Classmates fondly remember UAH biologist Adriel Johnson, a 1979 Wash U. alum.

Perry Stein
Editor in Chief

Adriel Johnson, 52, graduated from Washington University in 1979 and

continued to have an impact on the lives of the individuals he encountered until the day he died.

Johnson, an associate professor of biology from Tuskegee, Ala., was one of

three professors killed in Friday's shootings at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

UAH Professor of Biology Amy Bishop is charged with opening fire on her colleagues during a faculty meeting last Friday in a shooting spree that left three faculty members dead and three others injured.

The other two fatalities were Gopi Podila, the chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences, and Associate Professor of Biology Maria Ragland Davis.

The New York Times quoted an anonymous faculty member who said that Bishop did not receive tenure and subsequently appealed the department's rejection. The shooting occurred on the day the initial decision was upheld.

Bishop is said to have had a violent past that included the 1986 shooting of her 18-year-old brother which was ruled as an accidental death.

In the wake of Johnson's death, his classmates have reconnected across the country to commemorate the friend they remember as a kind and quiet man with an unforgettable sense of humor.

"He told his jokes in his own way. When he told a joke it was a big thing," said Janice Mitchell Isbell, a 1980 Washington University alum. "Everyone is in disbelief, we cannot believe this happened."

Isbell and her husband live near Johnson in Huntsville. Her husband, Irvin Isbell, was Johnson's roommate for two years at Washington University.

The WUSTL Black Alumni Network Web

site—which is not affiliated with the University—and alumni Facebook pages have been flooded with an outpouring of condolences and memories of Johnson.

"It's not often that we meet lifelong friends. In 1975, freshman year, I met Adriel," Sheldon Ames, a close friend and 1979 Washington University graduate, wrote in response to classmate Jan Boyd's Facebook status that honored Johnson.

One of his Wash. U. suitmates, Alvin Blackshear, wrote: "I am deeply saddened by this news. Adriel was a suitemate of mine during my freshman year and was always supportive and understanding of a not-so friendly nerd from NYC (me). His style and manner was something that years later I admired and was thankful for. I regret never having told him that he had a very positive impact on my life at Wash. U."

During his years at Washington University, Johnson, a biology major, participated in several intramural sports and was an active member of the Black Students Association.

"Adriel enjoyed being a college student at Washington University," said Donald Wilkerson, Johnson's freshman and sophomore year roommate. "We enjoyed all aspects of the life. It was fun for us. We recognized that it was one of those experiences that you only have once and I think we took advantage of it."

Wilkerson said that their lives at the University revolved around sporting events and Johnson was very enthusiastic about the Battling Bears.

"He was a hard worker.

See ALUM, page 3

200 pledge in shorter rush period

Jennifer Wei
Staff Reporter

Exactly 200 men at Washington University accepted bids in the first week of February to become a member of one of 11 active social fraternities on campus.

Four hundred and fifty-three men had registered online, although the actual numbers are estimated to be lower, said Dave Wallace, coordinator for Greek housing programs. This was because "some active brothers [registered to show] people how to register, and some double registered," he said. Others might have registered over break and changed their minds later on.

The main difference this year compared to previous years was the shortened recruitment period.

"Last year, they had about three to four weeks," said sophomore Sam Propis, co-recruitment chair of Sigma Chi. "This year it was two to three, although I think more people rushed this year. One hundred and seventy kids came through our doors."

The time frame was set by the Interfraternity Council.

"Last year, it was a little too long, this year was a little bit too short," said Matt Hoffman, co-recruitment chair of Beta Theta Pi. "It was kind of demanding for brothers and freshmen to be coming to that many events."

Despite this change, recruitment was structured similarly to previous years.

"The first week they get back, that Friday night is open house," Propis said. "Rushes from 5 [p.m.] to 9 [p.m.] go to

any house, meet brothers, stop by and put their name down."

Each fraternity held three to four open events, otherwise known as open rush, during which brothers got to know rushees and cut down their list of potential pledges to invite to closed events.

"You want people who would be a good fit and good contributing brothers down the road," Hoffman said.

Closed events are intended to provide a fun environment in which brothers and rushees get to know each other in a more intimate setting to see if the rushee is a good fit.

This year, events held by fraternities included broomball, paintball, Skyzone, bowling, laser tag, and dinners at fraternity houses and locations off campus.

According to Hoffman, spring recruitment is designed mostly for freshmen, although some sophomores also rush. Fall recruitment, on the other hand, targets mainly sophomores, and tends to be a smaller event. For instance, 25 men are pledging Beta Theta Pi this spring, while only seven had pledged this past fall.

When asked how the rush process went, freshman Stan Rosenthal, who is currently pledging Kappa Sigma, said that it was a good time and "more or less what I expected."

"I hung out there first semester and knew a lot of brothers already," Rosenthal said. "I enjoyed stopping by the house and I feel comfortable...I think everyone there takes care of their academics and saves plenty of time to hang out and have a good time."



COURTESY OF KENNY ANDERSON

Washington University graduate Adriel Johnson, above, was one of three people who were shot dead on Friday in Alabama.

THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Monday 15

few snow showers
High 28
Low 22



Tuesday 16

flurries
High 32
Low 20



eventcalendar

MONDAY 16

African Dance Workshop
Lower Mallinckrodt, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Learn African dance moves with renowned choreographer and Afriky Lolo owner Diadie Bathily. The lessons are open to everyone and the event is free. Come to dance or watch.

Work, Families, and Public Policy Brown Bag Seminar Series: 'Red Families vs. Blue Families'
Seigle Hall 348, noon
Naomi Cahn, a professor of law at George Washington University Law School, gives a presentation on the differences between different political families.

TUESDAY 17

Controversy N' Coffee Presents: 'Caught in the Crossfire: Discussing the Second Amendment'
DUC 276, 7:30-9 p.m.
The issues and controversy surrounding the second amendment will be discussed. The guest panel will include Professors Lieberman, König and Gardinier.

WashU's Best Dance Crew
DUC, Tisch Commons, 8-10 p.m.,
Come see the dance crew finalists perform as a part of George Washington Week. Hosted by the Interfraternity Council and Women's Panhellenic Association.

newsbriefs

Campus

Former dean of engineering dies at 60

Christopher I. Byrnes, a former dean of the School of Engineering & Applied Science at Washington University, died earlier this week in Stockholm, Sweden.

Byrnes served as the dean of engineering from 1991-2006. He was also the Edward H. and Florence G. Skinner Professor Emeritus of Systems Science and Mathematics. He was in Sweden this academic year as a guest professor at the Royal Institute of Technology. (Sally Wang)

National

Sobriety checkpoints crack down on illegal immigrants

In light of the precarious economic state, government agencies are increasingly turning towards non-conventional sources of revenue, one of which includes sobriety checkpoints. According to an examination by the Investigative Reporting Program at the University of California, Berkeley, impoundments at checkpoints generated an estimated \$40 million in towing fees and police fines in California in 2009.

While these checkpoints help stop drunk driving, they are far more likely to seize cars from unlicensed—many of who are illegal immigrants—instead of drunk drivers. Once unlicensed drivers are caught, the police will confiscate their vehicles for at least 30 days, as required by the Californian law, and issue storage fees and fines that range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. These repercussions leave many illegal immigrants desperate, for they often lack the money or cannot bring a legal driver with them to recover their cars.

This crackdown on illegal immigrants does not appear to be an unfounded trend. Law enforcement officials say that police do not use demographics as a factor in establishing checkpoints. The records, however, show that cities where Hispanics make up a majority of the population are seizing cars at three times the rate of cities with small minority populations. (Re-I Chin)

International

Polygamous man charged with sex crimes

Goel Ratzon, a 60-year-old Israeli man, was charged in a Tel Aviv, Israel, court with multiple counts of sexual assault, rape, sodomy and enslavement.

Ratzon has a total of 23 wives and fathered 59 children. Authorities indicated that he managed to convince all of his wives that he was omnipotent. Of the 23 wives, all of them have Ratzon's name and picture tattooed on their arms. His 59 children's names are all derivatives of his name.

Ratzon's first marriage occurred in 1972. In the early 1980s, he added a second wife. Since 1991, an additional 21 wives married him. According to court papers, "he persuaded the women that he had the power to heal and curse, through which he gained complete control of their lives, desires, thoughts, emotions and actions."

The indictment charges that Ratzon "captured the women in a 'pseudo-family' structure that revolved around the worship of his image, making the birth of his children a supreme goal that the women must aspire to, and all this was to glorify him while serving and fulfilling all his needs." In addition, Ratzon had complete control over his wives' finances. The women deposited most of their social security payments and salaries into the family's account.

Authorities have known of Ratzon's cult for approximately 10 years. They were only able to convince one of Ratzon's wives to file a complaint about six months ago which ultimately led to Ratzon's arrest last month. (Sally Wang)

policebeat

LARCENY—Feb. 7, 2010, 2:30 a.m.
Location: BEAR GRILL.
Summary: Report pending.

FRAUD—Feb. 12, 2010, 9:08 a.m.
Location: PARKING LOT #4
Summary: Transportation officer reported a fraudulent parking permit displayed. Owner contacted.
Disposition: Cleared.

AUTO ACCIDENT—Feb 13, 2010, 12:32 a.m.
Location: PARKING LOT #2
Summary: Two vehicles, minor injury.
Disposition: Cleared.

INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS—Feb.14, 2010 1:21 a.m.
Location: LOPATA HOUSE
Summary: Officer responded for a complaint between roommates.
Disposition: Referred to ResLife.

fortherecord

The Campus Programming Council's George Washington Week Happy Hour occurring from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday is occurring in Umrath Lounge, not the Gargoyle as mentioned in Friday's issue of Student Life. Student Life regrets the error.

PHOTO OF THE DAY | PENN MASALA



COURTESY OF KIERAN HOLZHAUER

Students from Penn Masala, South Asian a cappella group from the University of Pennsylvania, perform in the 560 Music Building on Saturday night.

quoteoftheday

"This is an opportunity for Treasury to show the student body whether they're committed to diversity"

--Senior Class President Fernando Cutz on the Diversity Affairs Council vote

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Senate votes to form Diversity Affairs Council

Lauren Olens
News Editor

In the midst of many issues affecting campus this year including the Mothers bar incident, Student Union Senate passed legislation to form a Diversity Affairs Council (DAC).

Last week in Senate, the new legislation for the creation of the DAC passed with 22 votes in favor, two against and one abstention.

According to the new legislation, the DAC's mission is to "foster connections between members of the campus community, and address issues so as to bring diversity to the forefront of campus-wide and administrative concerns."

Diversity refers to that of sex, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, class and philosophy, among many other ways of judging people.

People who supported

the legislation hope that by having a council, SU will be able to focus its attention on diversity in a long-term, institutionalized way instead of simply throughout the next year or two until current SU officials have moved on and new ones have come in, bringing a whole new set of issues with them.

According to Sackett, the DAC will have several purposes.

"The DAC has three purposes: to serve as a nexus for student groups and students interested in issues of diversity, to work with Senate to implement policy changes related to diversity, and to help coordinate diversity training efforts present on campus," Sackett said.

Sackett mentioned issues such as the Mothers bar incident and Celebration Weekend as some topics that have recently spurred discussion.

"[It will enable] rapid action planning for instances like racial profiling," said

senior De Nichols, president of Connect 4.

Further, there is redundant programming and overprogramming on campus, Nichols said.

"[The DAC will] unite and possibly combine some ideas and efforts," Nichols said.

In regards to the diversity training on campus, the DAC will become a resource in addition to a collaboration center.

Student groups such as Safezone, SARAH, Mixed and Uncle Joe's all provide diversity training, but supporters say that this will allow them to be better coordinated.

Nichols hopes that Greek Life will also be a part of this collaboration too.

The next step comes Tuesday when Treasury votes on the new legislation.

According to Sackett, a change in the constitution requires a two-thirds vote in both Senate and Treasury.

"This is an opportunity for Treasury to show the student

body whether they're committed to diversity," said Senior Class President and Fernando Cutz, co-chair of WU/FUSED.

Sackett, Cutz and Nichols all hope that Treasury votes in favor of the DAC, but they will have to wait until Tuesday to see what happens.

"I expect that they'll pass it because I have faith that Treasury wants to have student groups they fund work together," Sackett said.

Cutz agreed with Sackett but also mentioned that they have been a bit less certain about the creation of the DAC.

"It is my greatest hope that they'll pass it," Cutz said. "I think that Treasury has been a little more hesitant with the DAC and we're not exactly sure why."

Cutz did mention, however, that if the Treasury does not give this legislation two-thirds of the votes, there would be alternative ways of making sure the DAC is

formed.

"We have backup plans if they don't [pass it]," Cutz said.

If the legislation is passed, the DAC will be formed in late March, once the next administration is and sworn in. They then will appoint a DAC chair who will have to be approved by both Senate and Treasury.

This process has been a long one, making the passed version of the legislation the 13th draft.

When Jeff Nelson was originally approached about the issue, according to Nichols, he said that there was not anything in SU about "diversity affairs" yet.

Before being passed in Senate, the legislation previously passed the University Initiatives Committee with 10 votes in favor and zero votes opposing it.

"This has been a long process and a lot of people have been involved," Sackett said.

STUDENT LIFE

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ALUM from page 1



COURTESY OF SHELDON AMES

Adriell Johnson (center) with Wash. U. friends Mike White '79 and Rommie Loudd '79.

Very competitive," Johnson said. "A sweet guy."

After graduating from Washington University, Johnson went on to earn two master's degrees, in population genetics and muscle protein biochemistry. He graduated with a Ph.D. in 1989 from North Carolina State University.

In his professional life, he was chairman of the biological sciences department at the UAH and focused his research on cell biology and nutritional physiology.

There he was active in encouraging minority students to further their education and go to graduate school.

Johnson was the director for the UAH chapter of the Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Irvin Isbell Jr., the son of Johnson's Wash. U. classmates Irvin and Janice Isbell, attended the UAH as a chemical engineering major, and said that Johnson served as a mentor to him and encouraged him to attend graduate school.

"He was a very encouraging professor," Isbell Jr. said. "He would tear you down then build you back up as a stronger person. His presence will be greatly missed."

Isbell was a part of the scholarship program that Johnson oversaw.

"He gave us all a chance by putting us on the scholarship program. We are going to miss him."

Johnson is survived by his two sons and his wife, Jacqueline Johnson, a veterinary professor at Alabama A&M University.

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PB&J: More concerns for food allergies?

Sally Wang
Staff Reporter

For students who eat at the South 40 sandwich bar, most will likely notice the new sign posted above the counter indicating that peanut butter and jelly sandwich is now a new made-to-order option. While this may be a moment for those PB&J sandwich lovers out there to rejoice, it can turn out to be a nightmare for those with peanut allergy.

"Food allergies have always been an area of focus for us with employee training being a constant, but this year we decided

to do more," said Connie Diekman, the University's nutrition director.

All the chefs serving food on campus hold biweekly nutritional meetings with Diekman and according to campus Executive Chef Robert Flowers, the topic of dealing with food allergies on campus has been the main focus for the past month.

"We have taken it so seriously that we have collaboratively designed a training program that we are currently relaying to our culinary and front of the house staff," Flowers said. "The training is being discussed at our pre-shift meetings all around campus, and once we

train the staff they take a quiz just to ensure that the information has been translated to them in an efficient manner."

These meetings provide employees with the skills necessary to prevent allergic reactions from the cooking of food in the dining areas.

"The food allergy piece [of the biweekly meetings] involves how to better train employees, what materials would be most helpful, and how do we 'test' their knowledge," Diekman said. "We have used case studies with the staff to demonstrate how problems can occur, and then had them identify how to prevent the problems. Chef Robert did a demo and asked [the] managers to identify all potential 'errors' he was committing."

In order to keep food allergy to a minimum on campus, the Dining Services staff has been trained on how to properly clean, sanitize and reuse all materials related to the production of food on campus. According to Diekman, allergy training will continue to be a part of the regular daily trainings for the dining services staff.

"I have seen the chefs at the sandwich bar using the same knife to cut different sandwiches," sophomore Kieran Holzhauser said. "If I am allergic to peanut and the person before

me ordered a PB&J sandwich, does that mean that I can no longer eat at the sandwich bar?"

In response to that concern, Flowers promptly provided a solution.

"Also after researching a little regarding the sandwich station issue, I have spoken to the chef of the South 40, Gary Suarez," Flowers said. "He will be holding a training session just for the sandwich station to ensure that the proper protocol will be followed, primarily having a special knife just for the PB&J sandwiches."

Dining Services at Washington University takes the food allergy issue very seriously. Students have the option to view the ingredients for the food served on campus at the Dining Services Web site. In addition, there are also icons on the menus to mark key allergens.

"Students on campus should let us know of their needs so we can help them find what they enjoy and what they can eat," Diekman said. "I encourage all students with allergies to meet with me so we can review the limitations and how to meet nutritional needs. After this meeting, I take the student to meet with the chefs in the areas where they will dine and then together we review the options."



JAMES F. QUINN | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A classic peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Students are concerned about the addition of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the menu on the South 40 because of the possibility of contamination for students with peanut allergies.

Penn Masala spices up the 560 Music Building

David Messenger
Senior News Editor

The sounds of India mixed with modern American pop to fill the 560 Music Building on Saturday in a concert featuring Penn Masala, a South Asian a cappella group from the University of Pennsylvania.

The concert was orchestrated by Washington University's chapter of GlobeMed, a network of college students that partners with global health organizations to improve the health of those around the world living in poverty. The chapter aimed to raise money to benefit the Uganda Development and Health Associates

(UDHA), which is partnered with the chapter.

Along with UDHA, Wash. U.'s chapter of GlobeMed is working on a nutrition project for children under the age of 5 in Uganda. In addition to providing funding for the project through ticket sales, GlobeMed is selling the products of Crafts by Youth, which include recycled paper jewelry made by children in Uganda.

"We thought that they would make more of a profit if they sold it in an American market," GlobeMed Large Events Campaign Co-chair Vaishnavi Hariprasad said.

The Penn Masala show was well received by the audience in

the 560 Music Building.

"I thought they did a great job of blending popular American songs with Hindi songs," sophomore Aaron Kacel said.

GlobeMed members saw the event as very successful.

"We think it went really well we thought it was a big success," GlobeMed Co-president Elizabeth Riley said. "Everyone who came really seemed to enjoy it and we were very pleased with it."

GlobeMed Penn Masala Committee Member Jessi Mischel agreed.

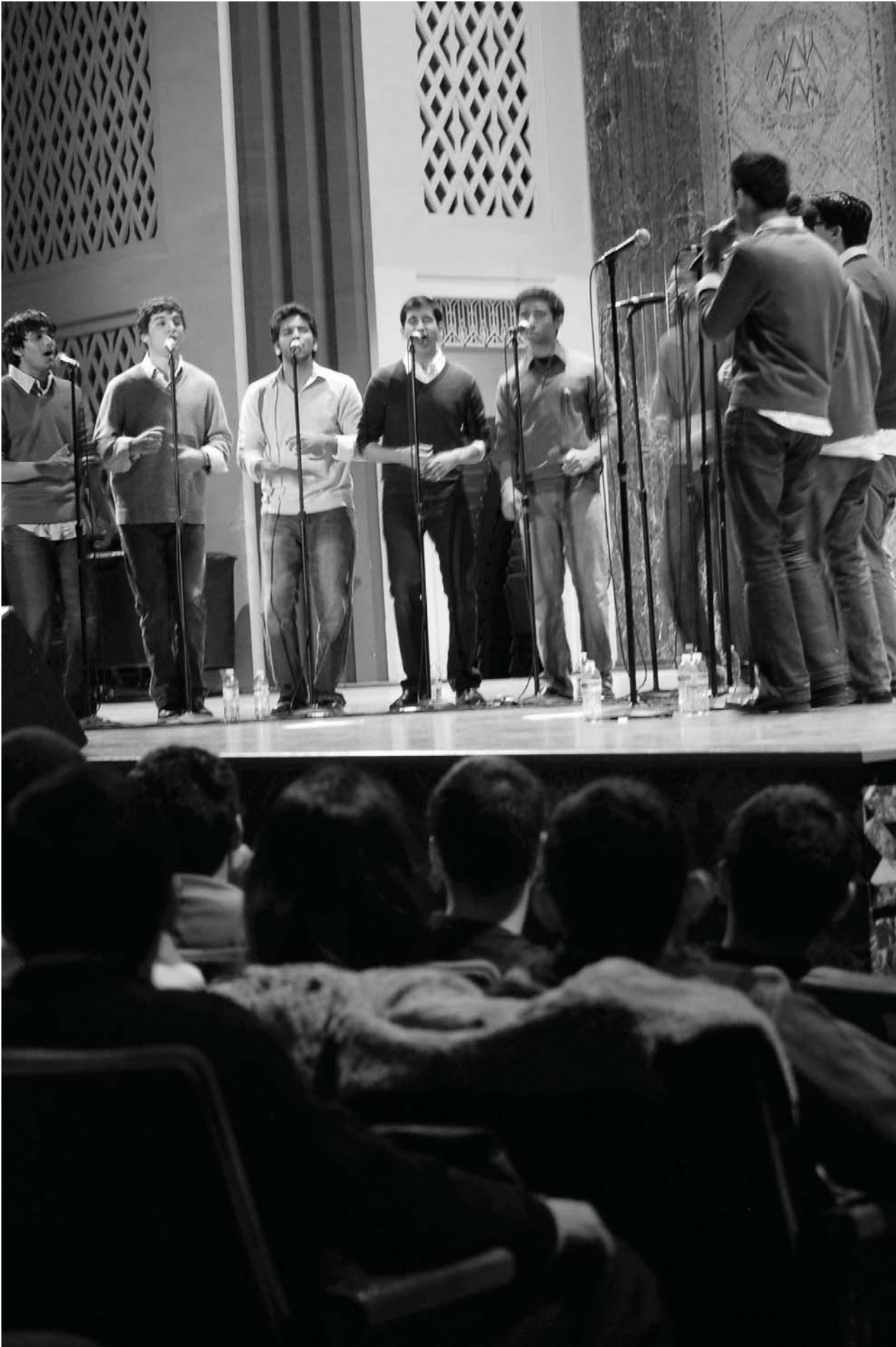
"People were really engaged by the music, which was great," she said. "We sold a lot of tickets at the door. It was great that people

came out because they were really interested in the music."

Penn Masala was started in 1996 by a group of South Asian students at the University of Pennsylvania. It has since become world renowned, traveling to places including England and India. The group performed recently at President Obama's Diwali celebration at the White House.

Masala is the world's only Hindi a cappella group. Many of their songs are medleys, in which half the song is a cover of an English song, while the other half is a Hindi song.

For more information on Crafts by Youth, turn to Scene, page 6.



COURTESY OF KIERAN HOLZHAUSER

Penn Masala members sing a mix of Hindi and English at the 560 Music Building Saturday night.

School of Medicine gets grant to study river blindness

Jack Marshall
Staff Reporter

The Washington University School of Medicine has received a five-year, \$13 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to research possible cures for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness.

According to Gary Weil, medical school professor and the principal investigator for the project, lymphatic filariasis is present in 81 countries around the world. It is most common in Africa and Pacific Island nations.

The infection develops in the blood of infected insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, which then transmit lymphatic filariasis or river blindness to humans. Of the 1.3 billion people living in these areas, 120 million are infected.

River blindness occurs through black fly bites when the infection reaches the eyes, blinding the infected party. The life cycle of the parasites must go through the flies before infecting the human.

"We have a treatment that is a one-day treatment that reduces the symptoms but does not cure them," Weil said.

Although some treatments already exist, Weil stressed the need for stronger cures. The drugs currently available can clear the parasites from the blood and skin, but cannot kill the adult parasites.

The laboratory at Wash. U. has developed a test to detect the infection and reagents for the test, according to Weil. This test has been used to map the locations where the infection exists.

According to Weil, the treatments available are able to cure river blindness. Lymphatic filariasis, however, still remains a problem that the project hopes to cure.

"The Gates Foundation has a big program in global health," Weil said. "In the past few years, they have gotten more interested in the group in global health beyond tuberculosis, HIV and malaria. They have begun to look at some of the other diseases that are out there."

All of the mentioned diseases can be controlled with medicine.

"These are diseases where we can make an impact with our existing knowledge," Weil said. "Right now, we do not have a simple cure for tuberculosis or HIV. The United States government and the Gates Foundation decided to focus more on these neglected tropical diseases, where we can do some real good short term while we wait for people to make the breakthrough discoveries that we need to treat these more fatal diseases."

Other universities which received the grant include Case Western Reserve University, Michigan State University and McGill University.

According to Weil and the University's news release, there are three main objectives over the five-year period of the contract.

The first objective, planned through Wash. U., will investigate the possibility of biannual treatments of the infection, instead of the current annual treatments. The project will attempt to figure out whether such treatment will be cost-effective in the long run.

The second objective will, according to the news release, "conduct two clinical trials of different treatments for lymphatic filariasis and one trial of new treatments for [river blindness]." This research will be managed at Case Western Reserve.

"This objective will take existing drugs and give them in different doses and combinations to see if they're more effective than the current treatments," Weil said in the news release.

The final objective, to be managed at Michigan State University, will involve trying to use flubendazole, which had been originally developed in the 1970s as a way to curb infections against filarial worm. Unfortunately, this treatment has caused harsh reactions in patients, so the investigators for the project hope to be able possibly to use this drug in treatments.

The project will be an international effort—while much of the planning will take place in North America, the actual execution of the plans and experiments will be done internationally in infected areas. The main goal for the project is to find a cure by 2020.



ERICH SCHLEGGEL/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Bill and Melinda Gates watch the swimming competition on Sunday, August 10, 2008, in the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. The Washington University School of Medicine recently received a five-year, \$13 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to research possible cures for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness.

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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Weston Career Center: Still more work to be done

The Weston Career Center has undergone significant changes in the past few years to combat students' dissatisfaction with job placement services. In light of BusinessWeek's latest ranking, however, it appears the center is still lagging compared to the services offered by other top universities. Most notable in the 2009 BusinessWeek article is the "C" Wash. U. receives for job placement. This grade ties Wash. U. for the lowest score with five other universities in the top 50. In addition, BusinessWeek also acknowledges that Wash. U.'s Weston Career Center (WCC), according to students, lowers the undergraduate business

program's efficacy. We believe that while the Weston Career Center may have increased efforts toward substantial improvements in recent years, its current state not only interferes with students' abilities to find jobs, but also hinders the business school's overall functioning and appeal. The job market is tough and as a result poses obvious difficulties to any career center. Graduating seniors around the country are no doubt suffering the consequences of the weakened economy. The WCC has heightened its efforts to expand the list of target companies and increase access to academic and career advisors. But when such

efforts come without dramatic results, they do not provide adequate excuses for the trend of subpar career services at Wash. U. Aesthetic renovations to the Weston Career Center cannot compensate for the lack of national brand name recognition. Resources could be better invested in promoting Olin's reputation outside the Midwest. While the WCC encourages finance majors to think of new areas in which to apply their skills, the advice should be more concrete and integrated more with coursework. In recent years, the WCC has experienced numerous changes in leadership. Effective May 31, 2008, Jim Beime stepped

down from his post as director of the Career Center. Karen Heise served as the interim director, while the WCC conducted a national search for a new, permanent director. Most recently, Associate Dean Mark Brostoff has taken over operations as director. CAREERlink, the Career Center's online job search tool, is neither easy to access nor user friendly. In addition, the business school has eliminated the course Managing Your Business Career Strategy, and opted to merge the curriculum into The Olin Experience program, a four-year series of courses on critical thinking and other topics which displeases many students. Is it too much to ask for consistency?

In a pre-Thanksgiving break message, Brostoff wrote, "With the soft economy, there has been a significant shift in corporate recruiting strategy as companies are conducting less on-campus interviews and relying more on company website job postings, employee (alumni) referrals, telephone screens and other ways to reduce the cost of hiring. No matter, the Weston Career Center remains focused on expanding our list of target companies while we expand our reach with recruiters for more opportunities, more [résumé] collects and more connections than in years past." We do not intend to imply that the Weston Career Center has not dedicated energy to

improving its services, but rather that those energies have not been focused in the right places. Job placement and career services are both critical aspects of any university and particularly of a business program where students depend on such services to make their lofty education costs worthwhile. Unlike some of the student experiences with the Weston Career Center, its mission statement is unambiguous: "Our Vision," states the WCC Web site: "Be best in class among business school career services centers and make career services a competitive advantage for the Olin brand." The Weston Career Center has a long way to go.

How to get the best of your housing experience

Alissa Rotblatt
Forum Editor

February fills our calendars with the start of exams and heavier work loads; we remember influential African-Americans during Black History Month; and Valentine's Day serves as a reminder to the couples about how very lucky they are while pushing the rest of us into a depression. In addition, there is one more element to this month that many Wash. U. students find particularly daunting. February marks the beginning of the pandemonium that is the housing selection process at Wash. U. For those of you who have not experienced the insanity, I will try to paint a picture that might do it justice.

There are tears and fights, friendships are lost, and loyalties are tested.

Now I realize this resembles a byline for a bad movie, but bear with me and you might just appreciate the reality—it's worse. The housing process is not unlike February itself in the way it creeps up, unexpectedly. Over winter break, a seemingly harmless postcard arrived at my home, only to be lost in the shuffle of bigger envelopes and holiday packages. It eventually found its place on my kitchen table basking in innocence and light from my ceiling fan. And it was there that I noticed its Wash. U. return address. I turned it over with no warning of what I would find on the back.

Housing Selection Begins Feb. 18, 2010.

The terror of last year's housing selection process came back to me with all-too-poignant clarity. "Questions?" the card read. "Please contact Residential Life." OK, Residential Life, can you answer me this? What

if I want to live with Becca and Cary and Melissa, but Becca won't live with Cary and Cary won't live without me? Becca wants to live with me, Johanna, Rachel, Parker and Alex, but Johanna and Rachel won't live with six people—what do I do? How do I tell Jamie that Laura doesn't want to live with her, and how do I tell Laura not to worry because Jamie doesn't want to live with her either? (It doesn't mean we're not friends anymore, Jamie, but thanks for being so mature about it.) What if my excuses run out? How do you respond to "It's not you, it's me," or "You're still my best friend, but I just couldn't live

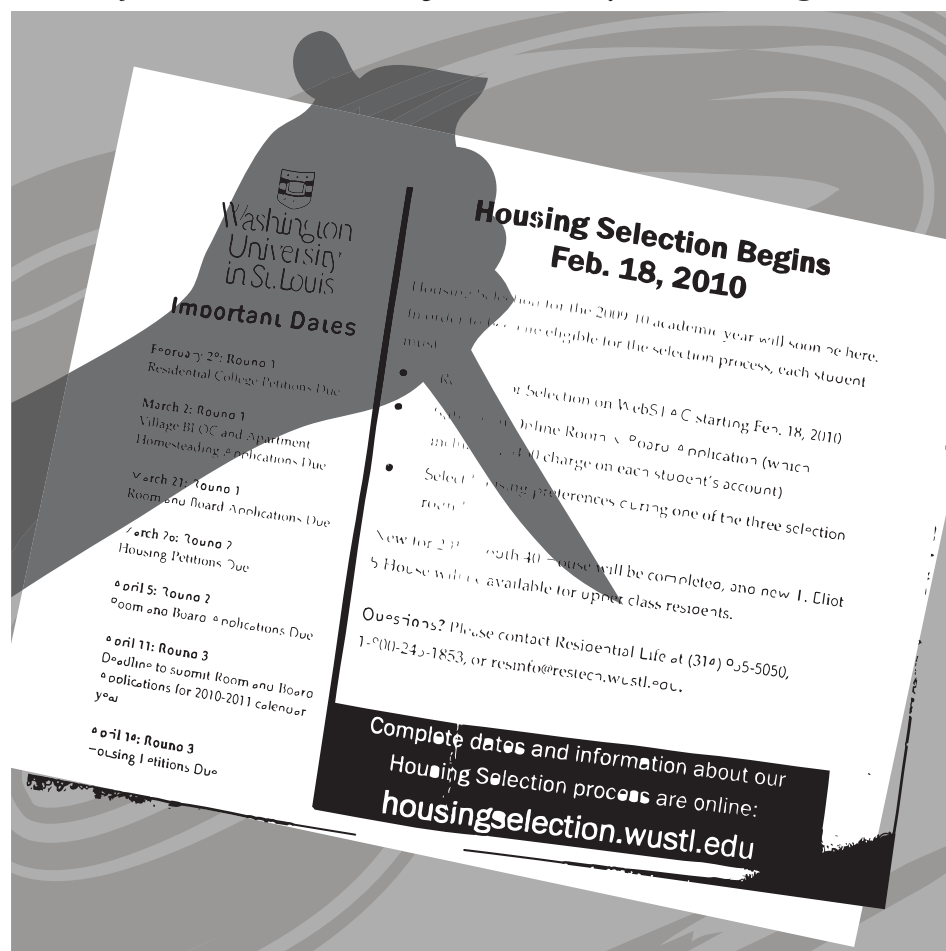
with you"? What do I do with the non-committers, the over-committers and those who are in denial?

Until ResLife is ready to offer some advice of their own, here is mine.

Like everything else that tends to get blown out of proportion, deciding on living arrangements will only be as catty and dramatic as you make it. Becca will still be your friend if you choose to live with Cary, and no matter where you live, you are still going to make it to class on time, even if it means taking the campus circulator a little earlier. The fight and tears will only

make move-in day that much sweeter. It is then that you'll realize that no matter with whom you live, your roommates will drive you crazy. It could be your best friend or a stranger, but at some point you will wish you had chosen the other suite, infamous plan B, your second option. Know this and trust that nothing can be perfect, but it will never be as bad as you think. Except for you, Rachel. I'm sorry, but you're right. Your roommates really are from hell.

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



ERIN MITCHELL | STUDENT LIFE

'Mein Kampf': A German rebirth?

Isaac Amon
Staff Columnist

In Germany, every author is guaranteed a copyright on any works they publish for 70 years after their death. Thus, the copyright of Adolf Hitler's autobiography, "Mein Kampf," is due to expire in 2015, 70 years after the Nazi leader committed suicide in Berlin at the end of World War II. Until now, the copyright has been held by the Bavarian government, but with the expiration in five short years, an increasing debate has raged within the country over the first German publication since the end of the Second World War. Edith Raim, a historian at the highly esteemed Institute of Contemporary History in Munich, said that the institute desires to publish a German edition, along with a critical annotated commentary, in 2015. According to her, "We hope to prevent neo-Nazi publications by putting out a commented, scholarly edition before [them], as well as [the fact] that 'Mein Kampf' is one of the central texts if you want to explain national socialism, and it hasn't been available in a commented edition at all in Germany."

Copies of "Mein Kampf" are easily accessible on the Internet already and are legally published in many countries around the world, including the United States. The Bavarian government has declared that even after 2015, "the dissemination of Nazi ideologies [presumably 'Mein Kampf' included] will remain prohibited in Germany and is punishable under the penal code."

The contents of the book include Hitler's detailed hatred of the Jewish people, his desire to avenge German defeat at the hands of the French, and his demand of lebensraum, or "more living space," in the East. The Nazi leader dictated this book to loyal subordinate Rudolf Hess while in Landsberg prison in

Bavaria after his failed putsch of 1923. The very first volume was published in 1925, and the second was published the year after. In the end, nearly 12 million copies were distributed throughout Germany until Hitler's downfall. In fact, "Mein Kampf" was given as wedding presents in Munich and Nuremberg to young couples.

According to Berlin's Stephan Kramer, the secretary general of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the publication of "Mein Kampf" has divided the Jewish community as well, with Holocaust survivors vehemently opposing it. But he stated that he was personally conflicted because "I have the highest respect for this opinion [of opposition], but on the other hand I'm saying very openly: The copyright is going to be waived anyway. It's a matter of time before the book is available in shops and libraries."

The reality is that "Mein Kampf" is already available, as aforementioned, on the Internet and in other countries around the world. With the German copyright expiring in a mere five years, a course of action needs to be planned. Eventually, the book, however despicable and abominable it may be, will be obtainable in Germany. Rather than continuously try to ban it, the German government and the Jewish community should join forces and show what type of book it really is.

One day, no eyewitnesses will remain, and it will be left to us to retell our children and grandchildren the truth and to combat Holocaust denial. We must remain ever vigilant, for as the great British statesman Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

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

Duh: Of course I don't think it's cool to torture and kill animals

Natalie Villalon
Staff Columnist

Casually commenting that a baby burger would be a tasty accompaniment to your french fries would instigate squirming in most people, with the possible exception of Hannibal Lecter. But when my friends smack their lips over a still-red slab of steak, I'm the protesting minority, the outraged vegetarian. I don't eat cows, pigs, chickens, fish or humans. My friends tend to think it's hilarious, and I'm maligned as the squeamish hippie girl, easily overpowered by normal meat-eating people.

Not only am I overtly vegetarian, but I'm one of those

irritating ones who believe that everyone else should choose to become vegetarian as well. Like all moral questions, there happens to be a correct course of action with regard to whether people should deliberately kill animals to eat their meat.

That being said, I believe everything is up for intellectual discourse. Molotov cocktails and shotguns aren't my style, although intimidating and/or shooting everyone who currently eats meat would probably be the most expeditious method of eliminating omnivores. I have reasons why I adhere to vegetarianism, and I'm not afraid to expose them to challenge through debate. Hopefully, I'll complicate or change a few people's views about their diets.

For me, becoming a

vegetarian was a personal choice—I was not indoctrinated by Neo-Hippie parents or brainwashed by a commune. My main reason for becoming a vegetarian was purely moral—I simply don't believe it is correct to arbitrarily draw a line between which lives to respect and which to take based on the distinctions among species. Animals think and, more importantly, feel. Although they may not share mental capabilities with humans, they process pain and pleasure. Depriving them of their lives, and making miserable what limited time they have, is wrong. Arguments that animals are mentally inferior and therefore unworthy of moral consideration could just as easily be applied to the mentally disabled. This reasoning

seems to be a cover-up for moral standing based on tastiness. Most people would not condone the torture and killing of a kitten; but the same behavior, applied to animals we find tasty and not as adorable, is accepted and institutionalized. Forget happy cows in verdant pastures; factory farm-raised animals are treated abominably before they are slaughtered. Chickens are fed and drugged to grow fat at the quickest possible rate. As a result, their lungs and limbs often can't keep up, crippling them. To keep costs down, animals are crammed into the smallest possible spaces. Pigs are confined in cages that are so inhibiting that they can't turn around or lie down. Bulls are castrated and have their horns ripped out of their heads.

My awareness for environmental concerns represents another important reason I became a vegetarian. According to a 2006 report by the United Nations, the meat industry is "one of the top two or three most significant contributors to global warming." The industry as a whole produces more greenhouse gases "than all the SUVs, cars, trucks, planes and ships around the world combined" (H. Steinfeld et al., "Livestock's Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options, Livestock, Environment and Development" (2006)). Not only do the animals produce large amounts of carbon dioxide but also methane (a byproduct of digestion and animal feces) and nitrous oxide, which are both more potent than carbon dioxide. Producing meat

also takes up massive amounts of energy. According to a 2002 study by E Magazine, one-third of all the energy in the U.S. goes toward producing meat.

At about this point in the discussion, my friends generally come up with irrefutable examples of logical reasoning. Their brilliant refutations often include, "What if carrots have feelings too?" When carrots wail in agony when I munch them, I will go out and rip apart a deer with my bare hands. In the meantime, I refuse to contribute to the culture of meat munching, and hope others will as well.

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

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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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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Engineers bring drag, catapults and glory to campus with EnWeek 2010

Shayna Makaron
Scene Reporter

Junior Caroline Fernandez is on a quest—a quest to bring one marginalized group of students to the forefront of the Washington University population. OK, so “marginalized” might be a bit dramatic, but this group is certainly subject to stereotypes and misconceptions. “Engineers are not just nerds,” Fernandez said. “Engineers do other things... We’re human, too!”

As Engineering Week (EnWeek) chair, Fernandez has been working with Alumni and Development, the Career Center, Student Union and several engineering student groups to make EnWeek 2010 the most successful one yet. The purpose of EnWeek is “to showcase what engineers do for anyone that may not truly know,” said senior Jeff Feiereisen, president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Despite the fact that it is nationally recognized at other college campuses and in the professional world, Wash. U.’s EnWeek has struggled in the past, mostly due to lack of publicity. EnWeek was run primarily by EnCouncil, which failed to attract the attention of other engineers and non-engineering students.

This year, however, the School of Engineering has seen the return of the President’s Council, a group that includes the presidents of all of the different engineering societies on campus such as IEEE, Engineers Without Borders and the Society of Women Engineers. This increased communication has made EnWeek a more collaborative event that will hopefully promote campus-wide participation.

“I think the fact that [several] groups decided to come together instead of it being just an EnCouncil event is the most exciting part—seeing what a big group of people can do,” Fernandez said.

The week of Feb. 13-20 will be packed with activities such as a paper plane competition, Nerf Gun capture

the flag and a “Super Smash Bros.” tournament fundraiser. Fernandez’s personal favorite is the Mr. Engineering Pageant, which will feature a student from each concentration (i.e., systems engineer, mechanical engineer, etc.) competing in pageantry events such as a talent show and, of course, an evening gown competition.

The events are designed to appeal to the Wash. U. community at large, not solely engineers. In collaboration with Washington Week, EnWeek will feature theme days such as Mardi Gras Day (Tuesday) and Orange T-shirt Day (Thursday) to promote spirit. Fernandez also explained that although engineering is known for being really technical, certain activities such as building a catapult are simple enough for anyone with a set of directions.

More complex, however, is the 13-foot metal trebuchet that is still in the works.

“We have all these classes where we learn all this stuff, but we never have these hands-on experiences,” Fernandez said of the motivation for building the structure. “We thought this would give us a good way to give students a hands-on experience to put on their résumés, and something to have fun with, too. [The trebuchet] is something that’s really, really cool, but it also requires people to use their minds.”

In response to the rumors that it is going to launch a school bus, Fernandez burst into laughter and explained that technically they could build it to do so, but for now, they’re planning on sticking to a piñata. Due to time constraints with regards to research and getting safety approval, the trebuchet unfortunately will not be launched until later in the semester. But Fernandez insists that when it arrives, this big event will promote not only the School of Engineering, but also Wash. U. as a whole.

To experience EnWeek and get excited for the upcoming trebuchet launch, check out some of the activities in the EnWeek schedule of events.



Robyn Husa
Scene Online Editor

Imagine having the talent and drive needed to reach your goals but the inability to achieve success due to intense economic and environmental hardships. This is the tragic predicament that countless youths living in Uganda are facing right now. Many of these youths go hungry for most of a given week, are orphaned or live in precarious family environments, and are unable to afford school.

During an internship made possible through GlobeMed and the grassroots organization Uganda Developmental and Health Associates (UDHA), sophomores Akhila Narla and Preethi Kembaiyan witnessed firsthand the poverty that the Ugandan youth face. While they were in Uganda, Narla and Kembaiyan were asked to help in a youth center set up by the UDHA to aid in the development of an income-generating project for the youth. In order to find out the best way to go about this, Narla and Kembaiyan went to the Olin Business School’s Skandalaris Center, where they were told to get in touch with an organization called Blessing Baskets.

“[Blessing Baskets] does this unique thing in that they sell handicrafts, but they provide the artisans three times fair trade wages,” Narla said. “They call it ‘prosperity wages,’ so it’s really trying to break the cycle of poverty for [the youth] and spur a little entrepreneurship.”

Applying this idea to the youths of the Ugandan youth center who were already making handicraft jewelry, Narla and Kembaiyan spearheaded the Crafts by Youth project. In this program, the jewelry made by the youths is sold to promote much-needed income.

“[The youths] make environmentally friendly, recycled paper jewelry; they take posters, magazines and advertisements, and they cut up and roll them into beads. Then they garnish them and make the jewelry [out of the paper],” Narla said.

This process allows the participating youth to earn money through a stable work-type environment so that they can support themselves instead of settling into the role of “receivers” of charity. In this way, the program works in a practical way, something that GlobeMed and its affiliates focus on. Here, the buyers of the jewelry pieces are, in a sense, working alongside the youth and empowering

them to face their economic barriers head-on as opposed to relying heavily on donations.

“[Crafts by Youth] is just something that is propelling [the youth] toward a goal that they want to reach,” Narla said. “We’re hoping that the sales will generate enough so that they’re able to prove some of the basics for their families, but also emphasizing the fact that their parents do have an obligation as the providers.”

A major goal of Crafts by Youth is to allow the participants to earn enough money to attend school so that they can continue their education.

“While we recognize the importance of a free clinic, we know that without opportunities for an education, these youth wouldn’t be able to escape the cycle of poverty that we witness within their families and their community,” Kembaiyan said. “That’s why we started Crafts by Youth, to ensure that the youth had a steady source of income, through which they could meet their immediate needs while also saving for their futures, so that they might be able to realize their dreams of becoming nurses, pharmacists, social workers and businessmen.”

Currently, Crafts by Youth is participating in

the Youth Bridge Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition, which is co-sponsored through the Skandalaris Center, in order to earn outside support to ensure the success of their program. The group is one of seven finalists in the competition, in which five monetary awards are given out. Those in the U.S. can directly help Ugandan youths as well by hosting Crafts by Youth fundraisers or simply by purchasing the jewelry the youths make.

“What’s unique about the Crafts by Youth model is that we serve as an avenue for socially conscious youth in the U.S. to engage their passion for social change halfway around the world,” Kembaiyan said. “We hope to use our Web page as a platform for youth around the world to engage in a dialogue over issues that they feel are relevant and to discuss what they feel the role of youth is in securing rights for our generation, regardless of where we live.”

Headline photo courtesy of Crafts by Youth. For more information about Crafts by Youth, upcoming events, or to see the online store, visit <http://craftsbyyouth.org> or find the organization through their Facebook page.



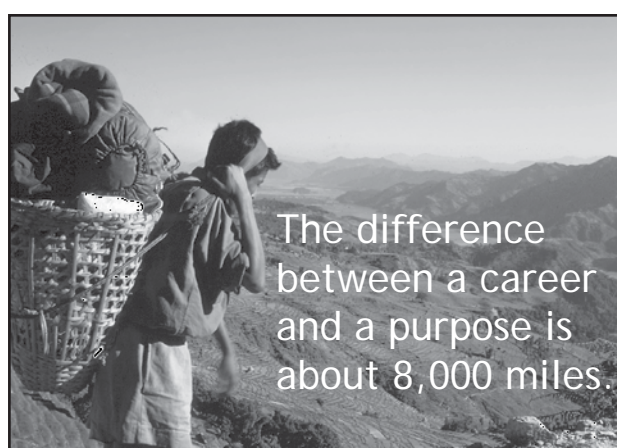
LILY SCHORR | STUDENT LIFE

Engineering students begin last year’s EnWeek by selling donuts near the Underpass. EnCouncil annually puts on a series of weeklong events in order to raise awareness of the contributions of engineers in everyday life. This year there will be a Nerf Gun capture the flag game, a paper plane competition and a catapult competition.

EnWeek Schedule of Events

monday Feb. 15	wednesday Feb. 17	thursday Feb. 18	friday Feb. 19	saturday Feb. 20
Nerf Gun capture the flag 10 p.m.-midnight Lopata Gallery	Mr. Engineering Pageant 8 p.m. McMillan Café	Paper Plane Competition Noon-2 p.m. Location TBA An Evening with Google 6:30 pm Seigle 204	IEEE Field Trip to Monsanto 2-5 p.m. RSVP to: ieee@cec.wustl.edu	EWB Community Service Day 8 a.m.-2 p.m. South 40 Catapult Competition 1-4 p.m. Women’s Building Lawn

Week-long Events on Danforth Campus: L’Oreal Design Competition, Golden Mouse Hunt, Penny Wars



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IN DEFENSE OF *the Winter Olympics*

Andie Hutner
Cadenza TV Editor

The news recently broke that NBC will likely lose money on the Winter Olympics. I don't understand. Yes, it kind of makes sense that the country is in a bad place economically. But that cannot be the only reason why. I need to ask: Why the hate?

I read an article for class earlier today that posed the following question: What kind of person would leave the television on with no one watching? Answer: For the next two weeks, me. The Winter Olympics provide so much entertainment. So what if it's not the Michael Phelps—I mean, the Beijing Olympics—any more? Winter Olympic sports are just as cool as any 200-meter dash or 100 butterfly relay. I am not a person who watches any sports, but one of my suitemates does. Earlier in the semester, the TV was always on, either showcasing the Australian Open or the X-Games. Normally, I wouldn't care about any of these events, but the exposure made me care. By the end of these two weeks, I had my favorites (I'm talking about you, Andy Murray and Bobby Brown) and I was devastated when the Games ended. The only thing that got me through was that the Olympics were so soon.

Is it weird that the idea of a sport that combines cross-country skiing and rifles makes me ridiculously happy? The biathlon seems like such an odd combination; how can you not like it? And curling—the entire sport consists of pushing stones towards concentric circles. I want to do that! Then, there are the sports that Americans take seriously. Alpine skiing is great to watch. It's amazing what those skiers can do. They go so fast and have such control of their movement. Why can't I do that? For those who complain that they are going to miss gymnastics this time around, why can't they recognize how fun figure skating is? Ice dancing is way more interesting than the floor routines in the Summer Olympics, anyway.



Sweden's Helena Jonsson heads downhill during the Women's 7.5-kilometer Sprint Biathlon in Winter Olympics action at Olympic Park in Whistler, Canada, on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

I am personally invested in men's speed skating, because I once met Apolo Anton Ohno at an ice cream place in Los Angeles. He was really cool. But even if I did not decide to get an ice cream sandwich that night, I would still care. Why? Because the Winter Olympics are awesome. I do not get many opportunities to show pride in my country. But how great does it feel when you hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" during a medal ceremony? Pretty awesome. I love the Winter Olympics. Even if I am not going to develop an emotional attachment to someone like Paul Hamm this time around, I will still care. And I will leave my TV on for the next two weeks, to show how much I do care.

HIM - 'SCREAMWORKS: LOVE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE, CHAPTERS 1-13'

Steve Hardy
Cadenza Reporter

After finishing "Screamworks," it may take a few minutes to realize that the album is over. His Infernal Majesty's latest offering has the unfortunate tendency to wash over the listener unnoticed. There's nothing wrong with the album—the band has some OK hooks, and they attempt to make their songs dip and swell—but the record is immediately forgettable.

The band that invented the genre "love metal" to describe itself offers little of either here. A more appropriate classification might be "post-grunge emo" more in the vein of Candlebox, if they took themselves way too seriously. Frontman Ville Valo really wants you to know how angry/in love he is with his beloved. Like, he really wants you to know. Please, please know. If his maudlin, overwrought lyrics about the pain of heartbreak won't convince you, perhaps a baying vocal delivery will get his point across.

HIM is clearly trying to inject some sense of drama into each track of "Screamworks." Unfortunately, that leads to little more than unsurprising loud-soft-loud progressions and brief half-



★★★★★

for fans of
Lostprophets, Candlebox

tracks to download
'Katherine Wheel,' 'Love, the Hardest Way'

hearted guitar solos. It's as if the band has these delusions that they're writing arena rock, but there's no substance to back it up. His

Infernal Majesty are tragically innocuous.

It's worth repeating that there's nothing wrong with the album. How can there be? HIM doesn't take any chances, for better or worse. Rather, we get a lot of safe, formulaic rock. There are some nice hooks, especially in the one-two punch of "Love, the Hardest Way" and "Katherine Wheel." The latter even has some less-hackneyed lyrics and is perhaps the best rock reference to medieval torture devices since Iron Maiden (at least until we at Cadenza finally realize our dream and release an album called "Bloody Mary and the Anal Pears").

The bottom line is that there are just other bands to fill in for HIM who do it better. The Used drive harder. My Chemical Romance are more dramatic. The Smashing Pumpkins have a better ear for melody. Our Lady Peace are less insistently depressing. Listen to one of those bands, or any band willing to take risks. Unfortunately, on "Screamworks," HIM is not that band.

eXplore, eXpand, eXploit, eXterminate, eXcept in real time

'Sins of a Solar Empire: Trinity' review

Michael Yang
Cadenza Reporter

I'm godawful at strategy games. I once lost a game of "Starcraft" to a Korean 4-year-old in a sleazy Web café. True story. Just scrolling through the "Civilization IV" tech tree gave me recurring nightmares of Sid Meier and Julius Caesar holding my girlfriend hostage on Alpha Centauri. Again, totally true. Here's another story: I've spent dozens of hours playing a title that combines both of those games, and my brain has yet to melt. I've been treating my inner Admiral Ackbar to "Sins of a Solar Empire," and given how excellent it is, you should too.

Considering that 4X (explore, expand, exploit and exterminate) games are predominantly turn-based, "Sins" bills itself as the first entry in a new genre—RT4X, which breaks down into Real-Time eXplore, eXpand, eXploit and eXterminate. eXploration involves sending your ships through phase lanes to unknown planets. eXpanding boils down to clearing out a gravity well of hostile ships and capturing a neutral planet with a colony frigate. eXploiting resources means building

mineral extractors and burning through research tiers to improve their efficiency. eXterminating opponents should be self-eXplanatory.

The beauty of "Sins" lies in its combination of 4X scale and real-time urgency. There are immense joys to be had from forging a sprawling empire from nearly nothing, all while other players rush to do the same. I begin every match the way all players do, with nothing but a home planet and a frigate factory. Fast-forward two hours. I've conquered a dozen worlds, each one's gravity well dotted with research labs and capital ships alike. Seeing that a pirate raid is imminent, I put a last-minute bounty on the head of a close rival, hoping the pirates will keep him busy while I attack another player. But it pays to be cautious, so I scramble to build defensive structures at my empire's most prominent choke point (choke planet?), only to find out that I'm out of money.

I begrudgingly ask another player to enter a trade alliance, and luckily he agrees. His cooperation makes me consider sending an envoy ship to his planet to boost our relations to unlock mutually beneficial pacts. Hovering over my credits summary, I

see that all of my problems come from my upkeep, which saps over half of my total income to support my two massive fleets. Both are phase jumping to different enemy planets, ready to siege them to hell and back. Some heavy losses later, I've finally battered the Vasari Remnant into conceding defeat. It's time to start thinking about the 50 other planets and four other players in the star system. My empire is on the rise, and I'm hooked on another game of "Sins."

And unlike most 4X games, "Sins" is actually easy to play because of an absolutely brilliant user interface. Every single button has a helpful tooltip. Almost every ability can be set to auto-cast. Structures are automatically placed and everything can be queued, even ships from a factory still under construction. Then there's the elegant zoom-to-cursor feature, which eliminates the need to pan the camera across the entire galaxy. Changing planets is a simple matter of zooming out, hovering over a planet, then zooming back in. Ironclad Games deserves nothing short of uber-praise for making a 4X game as complicated as "Sins" so accessible.

For all its playability,

however, "Sins" suffers from a lack of depth compared to true 4X and RTS games. In creating a blend of both that doesn't fry brains, it's understandable that "Sins" doesn't have the ludicrous complexities of "Civilization" or the intense micromanagement of "Starcraft." But there's more. Despite having a bit of lore and a decent backdrop of galactic warfare, "Sins" doesn't have a single-player campaign or any semblance of a story. Multiplayer and engaging in a skirmish against computers are the only two options available...Is that—is that sobbing I hear? By God, get a hold of yourself, man. "Sins" is fantastic in skirmish. A single decent-sized game can last almost as long as an entire campaign in another strategy game, and can be just as satisfying. As a rule of thumb, a match with X number of players will take about that many hours to finish. Games can be saved and resumed, naturally. It's also worth noting that two players can play on a local network with one key.

The original "Sins" was released in early 2008, but since then it has seen two micro-expansions. "Entrenchment" bolsters the game's defensive options with massive upgradable starbases, and the just-released "Diplomacy" opens up nonviolent options that allow players to ally or backstab their way to victory, as well as a "faster" game speed that puts "fast" to shame. Hot on the heels of the second expansion, publisher Stardock released "Sins of a Solar Empire: Trinity," which includes the vanilla game and both expansions, priced at an attractive \$40. Its release gives me the excuse to write this review two years late. Don't be late to the party like me, folks—go out and get "Sins of a Solar Empire: Trinity" for some seriously spectacular space strategy.

★★★★★



COURTESY OF STARDOCK ENTERTAINMENT

The strategy game "Sins of a Solar Empire" lets players zoom in on a single ship or zoom out to see entire star systems, each with its own cluster of colonizable planets.

IN DEFENSE OF dance movies

Alex Terrono
Cadenza Movie Editor

When I profess my love for dance movies, at least one person usually gives me the "Are you serious?" side-eye glance. Normally, I just shrink back into my chair and pretend that I never said anything, but no more. These movies—like "Step Up," "You Got Served" and my favorite, "Honey"—are ridiculously entertaining and deserve the artistic respect that they are so often denied.

First, I have to admit that the plotlines of these movies leave something to be desired. The dance movies are the pinnacle of the underdog story line. At least one dancer is ridiculously talented, but isn't getting the respect he deserves. The dancer then works his or her way up, eventually achieving whatever goal for which he was striving. Yes, this story line might be cheesy or overused, but it is certainly inspirational and engaging. No matter how many movies have this same exact plot, people will watch and enjoy them. I will always be one of those people.

One of my favorite parts of these dance movies is the music. Usually comprised of hip-swaying, booty-shaking hip-hop/R&B songs (with one or two ballads for good measure), the soundtracks to these movies are top-notch. Just as they get the protagonists up and dancing, they will be certain to force you out of your chair and onto the dance floor. The "Step Up 2: The Streets" soundtrack alone featured Flo Rida's No. 1 single "Low" and two Missy Elliott rumpshakers, "Ching-a-Ling" and "Shake Your Pom Pom." Its predecessor housed Ciara's hit "Get Up," along with club-bangers from Yung Joc, Petey Pablo and Kelis. In truth, these soundtracks (namely "Step Up" and "Honey") are my favorite soundtracks ever; I like to move.

The dancing stars who grace the screens of these movies also never

disappoint. "Honey," for example, stars Jessica Alba as the eponymous character who tries to cement herself in the hip-hop music video world as a dancer and choreographer. Let's face it: Alba is hot. She has topped numerous lists proclaiming just that, and "Honey" was her first big role. Without it, who knows where she'd be. The same film also stars Mekhi Phifer from "8 Mile," Lil' Romeo, Joy Bryant and Missy Elliott, all of whom only improve the film. Similarly, "Step Up" launched the career of eye-candy Channing Tatum, who is now a bona fide film star, having half-carried the new movie "Dear John."

Of course, the most important part of the dance movie is the dancing. That is, in fact, the point. Without the dancing, there would really be no point—I admit that. I would have no interest in any of these movies without the promise of some killer dance moves. With each choreographed routine, my heart skips a beat. Every time a dancer does a flip in the air, my soul does one to match. The dances are exhilarating, explosive and extreme. Talented (and attractive) dancers dance awesomely choreographed routines to high-energy hip-hop songs. If that's not enough to entertain you, then I don't know what is.

"Honey" and "Step Up" are just two in a series of entertaining, heartening, groove-inducing dance films. They star hot actors, hot music and hot moves, but most of all, they inspire. The stories themselves inspire as the underdogs climb their way up the professional ladder, while the dances inspire in other ways. After each movie, I wish for nothing more than the ability to dance just like Channing Tatum or Lil' Romeo. While I have never actually followed up on those feelings, I will always be inspired nonetheless. It's this inspiration that really propels these movies to the top and makes them the quality movies that they are.