

Women's basketball coach Nancy Fahey sits down to talk about her team and winning the national championship, in **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Washington University recently announced the hiring of a coordinator for sexual assault prevention. Read our expectations in **FORUM, PAGE 4**

'Fabulation' comes to campus this weekend. Read our review of the play in **CADENZA, PAGE 7**

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SETTLEMENT seeks change

Students participate in campout and city-wide protests



PHOTOS BY MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Students and community members camp out at Poelker Park as a part of a five-day event filled with protests targeted at corporate power and influence.

Perry Stein
Editor in Chief

Dozens of students and local community members pitched tents and camped out in downtown St. Louis Wednesday night to kick off a series of demonstrations aimed at rallying the community to stand up against corporate power.

The People's Settlement is a five-day event in which participants camp out at Poelker Park at night and participate in demonstrations during the day on issues ranging from LGBT rights to

environmental ethics.

This series of demonstrations draws from a variety of local activism groups and fosters a collaborative effort to combat what participants identify as "frustrations with corporate control of politics."

Around 20 organizations are involved in the demonstrations, and hundreds of people are expected to attend throughout the five days.

Some of the participating activist groups include Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE), Climate

Action St. Louis, Washington University Co-Op and the Catholic Action Network.

Anyone is allowed to attend any of the events.

Junior Harry Alper, who plans to stay at the settlement all five nights, said the environment at the settlement is equally important to the event's mission as are the demonstrations.

There will be free food and some forms of entertainment each night.

"I am really excited about

See **ACTIVISM, page 3**

Kim Webb is named to sexual assault post, capping long search

Eliza Adelson
News Manager

After months of searching, Washington University has found a new assistant director for community health and sexual assault services, Kim Webb. She will assume the position in June.

The University's Advisory Committee on Sexual Violence and Prevention (ACSVP) has been preparing to hire a director for this position over the past year by compiling a series of goals, procedures and resources for the University's own sexual assault prevention and response program.

The position, which is currently non-existent at the University, will serve as a coordinator for sexual assault prevention on campus.

"She's going to be a point person on the front line and really [help] the University not only on educational initiatives but to be a lot more proactive," said Jill Stratton, a co-chair of ACSVP.

Webb comes to the University from Student Health Services at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she has worked in health promotion, and has a special interest in violence education and prevention. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mizzou.

Alan Glass, assistant vice chancellor and director of Student Health Services, spearheaded the search process.

"I am extremely excited that we have found a student-focused individual with the qualifications and communication skills that Kim possesses. She is a great fit for this position," he said.

He also emphasized the importance of finding a candidate who would work with the students who have already established programs to deal with issues surrounding sexual assault.

Stratton said much of the wait has been due to the lack of resources in place to educate and respond to concerns about the rise of sexual assault on campus.

Despite the time it took for the University to fill the position, Stratton is satisfied with Webb and feels that she will hold a successful role.

"It was a long process because it was an important process," Stratton said. "I don't think we were willing to settle. We wanted to find the best person, and that took a little bit longer, and I know there was some frustration, but the process was long and deliberate because it was important."

The standards Stratton was looking for were rigorous. She wanted to fill the position with the most capable person

possible.

"I think at some point we wanted the person to walk on water, but I think the number one thing was someone who had a commitment to students," she said. "[Webb]'s coming from working on a college campus before, and she is knowledgeable about sexual assault and why is this happening?"

Webb looks forward to her new job; but she also realizes she has many challenges ahead.

"[I want to] make sure that we do a comprehensive effort of what is already available and what's in place, and make sure we get all these stakeholders together so we are all working towards a community response, and that we address any gaps in services, so we can have a very fluid system," Webb said.

Webb is well aware of what is expected of her.

"I'm looking forward to working on these issues. Long before this position was created there have been a lot of people interested in this advocacy and making sure these positions are available," Webb said. [I am] looking forward to setting up a coordinated response system so that we do support students, so we can hopefully prevent these sorts of things that are happening, and we are aware of our language."

Admissions director: Record 25K applied for Class of 2014

Alan Liu
News Editor

The high school seniors arriving on campus this weekend for scholarship finalist weekend—the first of many visitation weekends—were admitted into the University from a pool of nearly 25,000 applicants.

"The admission decisions this year were the most challenging in the University's history," Director of Admissions Julie Shimabukuro wrote in an e-mail to Student Life. "As in previous years, the talents (academic and non-academic talents) of this year's applicants and admitted students are outstanding and, of course, admitted students are from all over the world."

Shimabukuro said that the admissions rate remained the same, at about 20 percent. Meanwhile, she expects to keep enrollment at about 1,500 students for next year's freshmen class.

After admissions decisions are released, many admitted students often visit the University or are invited by the University to come for Spring Preview (formerly known as April Welcome). The name change was due to the fact that Spring Preview actually begins in March.

Nneka Onwuzurike is a high school senior from West

Bloomfield, Mich., who was accepted to Olin Business School. She has already decided to come to Washington University, but wanted to visit the campus before showing up in the fall. She also thought it was a good opportunity to get away from high school.

"I heard about [the school] through my sister and my brother, who both go to this school. I really wanted to go to a really good school, but smaller and near a big city," Onwuzurike said. "Everyone's really nice and friendly."

Shimabukuro agreed with this sentiment.

"All of our visitors comment that WU students seem very bright and very engaged in their academic work," she said. "They also comment that our students seem down-to-earth and happy to be here. It is a distinctive feature of Washington University. We hear the same comments about our faculty members. I am a WU graduate and I remember feeling the same way when I visited campus."

Freshmen Rachel Tyröler is hosting two students this weekend. She's a Rodriguez Scholar and believes that this weekend provides a great opportunity for prospective freshmen to experience the University community.

See **2014, page 3**

No people are hurt in Lee fire, but a microwave falls victim

News Staff

Holy smokes! A fire alarm went off in Lee Hall on the South 40 on Thursday. The acrid smell of smoke filled the halls of the residential building, indicating that this was no drill.

The fire on the second floor of Lee was caused by a microwave oven.

"It was not an intentional fire set or anything like that," said Don Strom, chief of the Washington University Police Department.

Students in the building were evacuated immediately and there were no injuries.

Strom said that a police officer put the fire out with a

See **FIRE, page 2**



JOHANN QUA HANSEN | STUDENT LIFE

The remnants of the microwave after it caught on fire Thursday afternoon on the second floor of Lee. No one was injured, but smoke filled the second floor, prompting an evacuation of the building.

Naomi Klein decries 'crony capitalism,' banks

Michelle Merlin
News Editor

"Only a crisis, actual or perceived, produced real change," is a well-known Milton Friedman quote. This is how Naomi Klein, renowned author and journalist, framed her book "The Shock Doctrine" and also her lecture at the Assembly Series on Wednesday, "The Present and Future of American Capitalism."

Klein was scheduled to speak at the University last year,

but canceled due to weather.

Her talk focused mostly on the bank collapse and her belief that American capitalism is hurting the people who need the most help.

Klein criticized the culture of the banks as "an orgy of greed" that led to their eventual collapse.

She said that the bank collapse was the catalyst that Friedman was talking about. With the collapse of the banks, private companies supported by what Klein calls "crony

capitalism" were able to come in and take over jobs that were previously part of the public sector.

She also called for more regulation of the banks, condemning Obama's bailouts. "The risky behavior that precipitated this crisis has not been banned," Klein said.

Klein said the banks now know that they can get away with the same behavior that was condoned in the past.

Instead, Klein would have liked to see the people own

parts of the banks because it was their tax dollars that bailed the banks out. The banks could then finance projects that the president endorses.

For example, instead of closing factories that are failing, Klein suggested that the factories be converted into green factories that produce materials needed for infrastructure or environmentally friendly products.

Instead, the bailout "didn't

See **KLEIN, page 3**

THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Friday 26

Sunny
High 54
Low 35



Saturday 27

Mostly cloudy
High 63
Low 50



Sunday 28

Showers
High 56
Low 42



eventcalendar

FRIDAY 26

African Film Festival
7 p.m., Brown 100
Come watch films such as Ghana and the U.S.'s "Bronx Princess" and France and Chad's "Sex, Okra and Salted Butter" as part of the African Film Festival. These 2008-released films are free to watch.

Performing Arts Department Presentation: "Fabulation"

8 p.m., A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre
Directed by William Whitaker, the comedy "Fabulation" explores the relationships between the protagonist and her friends and family. Tickets are \$10 for students, seniors, faculty and staff. Others can purchase tickets for \$15.

SATURDAY 27

Wash. U. Build Extravaganza

1 p.m. - 3 p.m., the Swamp
Join Habitat for Humanity and build houses out of cardboard and duct tape. The winning team will receive a private box to any regular season Rams game. Individuals must pay \$5 to enter and teams can consist of up to eight people.

Performing Arts Department Presentation: "Fabulation"

2 p.m. and 8 p.m., A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre
Directed by William Whitaker, the comedy "Fabulation" explores the relationships between the protagonist and her friends and family. Tickets are \$10 for students, seniors, faculty and staff. Others can purchase tickets for \$15.

Drag Show

7 - 9 p.m., Gargoyle
Pride Alliance is holding its 4th annual Drag Show. During the intermission, there will be a competition for the best student drag king and queen, so dress in drag! Admission is \$2.

SUNDAY 28

Performing Arts Department Presentation: "Fabulation"

2 p.m. and 8 p.m., A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre
Directed by William Whitaker, the comedy "Fabulation" explores the relationships between the protagonist and her friends and family. Tickets are \$10 for students, seniors, faculty and staff. Others can purchase tickets for \$15.

newsbriefs

Campus

Nick Yozamp to participate in Tournament of Champions

Nine million viewers will watch junior Nick Yozamp answer even more questions in Jeopardy's 2010 Tournament of Champions. Episodes will air from Monday, May 10 to Friday, May 21. Fifteen contestants are competing for a grand prize of \$250,000; second place winners will gain at least \$100,000 and for third place winners, a minimum of \$50,000. All other contestants will win at least \$5,000.

Competitors come from all backgrounds including chemical engineering (Vijay Balse) and foreign service (Liz Murphy). Yozamp already won \$100,000 in February from participating in College "Jeopardy!" The competition has already been filmed in Los Angeles' Sony Pictures Studios. (Alaa Itani)

Senate holds internal elections

On Wednesday, Student Union Senate had a leadership turnover. Freshman Mamatha Challa was elected Speaker of the Senate, junior Mike Post the chair of the University Initiative Committee, junior Pat Kelly the chair of the Campus Services Committee, and sophomore Vinod Ravikumar the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. (Michelle Merlin)

RARA brings student art to SoFoHo

The Residential Area Real Arts Committee brought student art to the South Forty House. The art was created in the "core" art classes in the art school, such as drawing, 2D design and 3D design. RARA worked with the Congress of the South Forty, Paul Schimmele, the assistant to the director of WU Dining Services and David Yackey, the zone manager of maintenance. The artwork is by freshmen and sophomores taking classes in the art school. (Michelle Merlin)

African Film Festival projects unseen images of Africa

Washington University's African Film Festival is back. The event will be held over three days, from March 26-29.

The film festival will focus on films that highlight migration and its impact on changing identity definitions.

All film showings are free and are open to University students and those in the St. Louis community. The event will occur in Brown Hall, Room 100. After the presentation on Saturday, a discussion and reception will take place.

The first movie, to be shown on March 26, is "Meteni: The Lost One," which covers nomads transporting their herds through Ethiopia.

The organizer of the event is Assistant Dean and Lecturer in the African and African American studies department Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo.

Also on March 26, the documentary "Waiting for Men," which deals with the unexpected lives of women in Mauritania, will be played.

On March 27, the documentary "Shoot the Messenger" will be presented. The film is about a man who is having a difficult time understanding the meaning of being black in 21st-century Britain. Since blacks come from both the Caribbean and Africa, it is difficult to overcome differences and form communities.

The films were provided by the African Film Festival, a non-profit organization based out of New York with the aim of promoting African arts, literature and culture.

The 13-year-old Traveling Film Series spotlights an overlooked aspect of international film culture. Each year, the series travels 12 cities, offering much access to otherwise inaccessible videos.

Campus sponsors include African & African American Studies and Film & Media Studies programs, both in Arts & Sciences; the African Students Association; and the African Students of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Additional support is provided by a grant from the Women's Society. (David Messenger)

National

California considers marijuana reform measure

California voters will face a ballot proposal November 2010 that will make marijuana as attainable as alcohol. According to the Marijuana Policy Project, passing the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 will allow law enforcement officials to refocus efforts from capturing non-violent marijuana offenders to solving more violent crimes. In 2008, more than 78,000 people have been arrested on marijuana charges within California alone while 60,000 violent crimes remained unsolved. Arrests for marijuana possession have increased by 127 percent between 1990 and 2008.

The act was submitted with about 700,000 supporting signatures; 433,971 signatures are required for a proposal to be placed on a ballot. If passed, adults 21 years and older could purchase up to one ounce of marijuana. The majority of Californians support such regulation. California is one of 14 states that have already legalized the use of medical marijuana along with Alaska, Hawaii and Nevada. (Alaa Itani)

policebeat

WARRANT ARREST--March 23, 7:37 p.m.

Location: EADS

Summary: Suspect arrested for an outstanding warrant for University City. Disposition:

Cleared by arrest.

quoteoftheday

"Politics hates a vacuum. If we don't fill that vacuum with hope, some will fill it with hate, and it's already happening."

— Author Naomi Klein during her lecture

FIRE from page 1

fire extinguisher.

According to Paul Mercurio, assistant chief of the Clayton Fire Department, the fire was already extinguished when firefighters arrived but there was still "quite a bit of smoke there."

"[The] floor smelled a little weird," said freshman Melissa Turkel, a resident of the floor. "I went in my room, grabbed a few things, then went to Beaumont." Turkel heard her residential advisers on the phone with WUPD as she was leaving.

The firefighters on the scene worked to clear the smoke from the second floor of the dormitory.

Another resident, freshman Annelies DeVos, was moving her laundry when the alarm went off.

"There were already police there when I went outside," DeVos said.

Mercurio said that the microwave's wooden stand also ignited from the heat of

the microwave.

It is unclear what caused the microwave to catch fire.

"We did not find anything in the microwave," Mercurio said. "Nothing was burned in the food compartment of the section. It didn't look like anyone had neglected food that they were cooking."

The damages to the building are not yet known.

According to students at the scene, at least three fire trucks responded to the fire; an unknown number of ambulances were on the scene. A Student Life staff member who approached the dormitory was stopped about 25 feet away from the building by a police officer because of the fire.

There had been fire drills throughout the dorms scheduled for sometime on Thursday, and the ventilation systems in the building had been cleaned on Wednesday.

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Graduate student starts tutoring service

Jennifer Wei
Staff Reporter

As a solution to the high number of high school students who struggle with math and science, Wash. U. graduate student Leo Shmuylovich and Princeton University graduate Josh Salzman created a Web site called Virtual Nerd (virtualnerd.com) that provides interactive online video tutorials instructing students in math and science.

Leo Shmuylovich graduated from Cornell University as a Chemical Engineer and is currently in the MD/PhD program at the Washington University School of Medicine. He worked for The Princeton Review as an MCAT and SAT I lecturer. After graduating from Princeton University, Josh Salzman pursued graphic design at New York's School of Visual Arts and has worked with numerous companies such as the New York office of Main-spring, Inc. as a web and graphic designer.

Since its launch on March 20, 2008, the Web site has accumulated a total of 330 Algebra I tutorials that add up to 13.5 hours of viewing time with more than 12,000 step-by-step graphics, according to a fact sheet provided by Josh Salzman.

Each video tutorial shows a real teacher solving a problem with a list of the steps on the side of the screen. Students can click a step and branch off to view another video that explains a more basic question that may have been necessary to understand the problem. The same video can then be further directed to videos that explain even more basic definitions and formulas. The videos cascade together so the student

can jump to any step of any video at any time.

After tutoring in math and science for 10 years, Shmuylovich noticed that there were lots of students who could benefit from help but couldn't get it.

"I was looking for a way to help a larger number of students. My original concept wasn't even a business idea. I thought I'd videotape myself solving physics problems and then post the videos to YouTube so people could learn from them," Shmuylovich wrote in an email.

Shmuylovich and Salzman had worked on the project for six months when they learned about the Olin Cup competition sponsored by the Skandalaris Center in the Olin Business School. Through the competition, they successfully drafted a detailed business plan and pitched it in front of entrepreneurial experts from around St. Louis. The team won the Olin Cup's \$75,000 grand prize in 2009.

Currently, Virtual Nerd only provides Algebra I instruction, though it has plans to introduce all levels of high school math from Pre-Algebra to Calculus, as well as Physics and Chemistry by August 2011.

The website currently allows users to register for free to access all of its Algebra I tutorials. However, according to Salzman, a \$50 per month Premium Plan will launch on May 1st, 2010, though there will "always be a Basic Plan as well, with many tutorials available for free, including most or all of the core concepts in a given subject."

Virtual Nerd has also marketed its video tutorials to schools in the St. Louis area and received positive feedback.

"We've met with teachers and



J. DEWESE | ST. LOUIS

Virtual Nerd was founded by Josh Salzman (left) and Leo Shmuylovich (right) in March 2008 to help students who struggle in math and science by offering video tutorials online.

administrators at...Chaminade and Rosati-Kain, both of which were pilot schools for us, as well as St. Mary's, Ladue, Duchesne, Parkway, Kennedy, and others," Shmuylovich wrote. "Some people get it immediately; others have to see a demo first...Our hope is that teachers will recommend Virtual Nerd to students and their parents."

With success in St. Louis,

Virtual Nerd has begun expanding nationally and working on incorporating other forms of delivery.

"We've had inquiries from students, parents and educators from as far away as Hawaii," Salzman wrote. "We're also working on one strategic partnership to white-label our instructional platform and another to bring Virtual Nerd to web-connected TVs."

ACTIVISM from page 1

the settlement itself, the bonding opportunity and the knowledge-sharing opportunity, and learning how a settlement like this operates," Alper said.

Sophomore Deanna Parish said she decided to attend the nightly planning meeting on Wednesday because she was interested in activism in the St. Louis community.

"I am interested as to how the few mobilizers on campus have been interested in expanding outward into the city and city movements and what [activism] is like outside of campus," Parish said.

Sophomore Mariana Oliver had never participated in an activism event before and was encouraged by Naomi Klein—an activist known for her criticism of corporate globalization who spoke on campus Wednesday afternoon—to become involved.

"I have never been part of an activism movement before, this is my first time and I figured it's an awesome way to start it," Oliver said.

The People's Settlement started with a sit-in at Bank of America to protest the recent foreclosures. Protesters chanted in the lobby and demanded that an executive come down and speak with two customers whose homes were being foreclosed.

MORE Organizer Hannah Allison said the event was successful and the bank's national office agreed to send someone

from Washington, D.C., to St. Louis to meet with people and explain their practices.

"We were able to secure at least the beginning of our demands—the beginning of our process of how to meet these demands," Allison said.

On Thursday morning approximately 35 people protested outside Laclede Gas Company's office on Olive Street to speak out against the company's LGBT policies.

According to a survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign, Laclede Gas tied with Exxon Mobile in 2009 as the worst company in the nation for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people to work for.

On Friday the demonstrations will continue with a protest against Peabody Coal—the world's largest private-sector coal company.

According to participants, it is important for people to be engaged with the community because St. Louis is the home to many major corporations. Demonstrators said that these companies feel they can get away with unethical practices because there is not yet a strong movement in St. Louis that will stand up against them.

"[Students] are in this city and we are purchasing customers of these companies in this city," sophomore Arielle Klagsbrun said. "A lot of people don't know that St. Louis is the hub of corporations who do a lot of not-so-awesome things."

THE PEOPLE'S SETTLEMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All demonstrations start at Poelker Park at 13th and Market streets

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

11 a.m.-1 p.m. • Peabody Coal Action
3:30-5 p.m. • Anti-War Action

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

11 a.m.-1 p.m. • Race to the Top and the Privatization of Public Education Teach In
1-3 p.m. • Privatization of Education Bake Sale

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

1-3 p.m. • Faith-Based Action Catholic Action Network
3:30-5:30 p.m. • Labor History Tour

2014 from page 1

She'll also be responsible for interviewing the Rodriguez finalists this weekend.

"It gives them a good chance to interact with the kids in Rodriguez and see if that's something [that] interests them," Tyroler said. "I hope to show the prospective freshmen what it's like to be a freshman at Wash. U. and want to come next year. They should get a preview of what it might be like for them next year and how they would fit in the community here."

Shimabukuro especially emphasized the role that current students play during Spring Preview.

"We are grateful for all of the help and support that is provided by our current students. They serve as overnight hosts, tour guides, greeters and minglers, and they work on many welcome events for visiting students," she said. "Our students make the difference."

KLEIN from page 1

solve the crisis; [rather] it moved the crisis," she said. With the bailout, the debt of the private banks was moved to the public's shoulders.

This can be seen in a myriad of places, including the University of California tuition increase of 32 percent and the cutting of programs serving the underprivileged across the country.

Klein called for an increased criticism of Obama. She recognized his ability to calm the left and infuriate the right, making the left more defensive of him. Though this was tempting, she said, the left must continue to criticize him.

She also called Obama a centrist and charged the audience with moving the center farther left.

"The times we live in do not call for tentative citizens, but for determined and enraged citizens," Klein said.

Klein's visit was widely anticipated by many of the students, as her writings have been read for several courses, such as Crossing Borders in some

semesters and the Text and Tradition writing course.

"I was really excited to hear that she was coming on campus," sophomore Mariana Oliver said. "I think this is something everyone here should listen to."

Some students, like freshman Mickey Bradford, discovered Klein on their own.

"I had only read her first book, 'No Logo,' which was more of an analysis of corporate abuse and wrongdoing," Bradford said. "In comparison, her talk about her second book was much more partisan and speculative in nature. Overall though, there was still much valuable insight that I picked up from seeing her speak."

Oliver thought that Klein was the perfect sort of speaker to bring to campus.

"The message was perfectly targeted at college students, because if anyone's going to mobilize, it would be college students, and hopefully it's a message that will inspire students to get motivated," Oliver said.

Klein also praised the work of Washington University's activists, complimenting their work in trying to change the name of the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization.

"Politics hates a vacuum," Klein said. "If we don't fill that vacuum with hope, some will fill it with hate, and it's already happening."



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Guns and government

Phil Christofanelli
Staff Columnist

As of late, there have been several debates on campus concerning the topic of gun control. When approached with this topic, many stuffy professors like to drone on ad nauseam about court precedent. Others like to spew out endless series of statistics on crime rates and

The reason we have a right to gun ownership is not to protect ourselves from criminals, but rather, to protect ourselves from history's cruelest enemy of the people: the government.

gun possession. Both sides seem to have their own set of numbers, their own historical story of gun use in America and their own collection of anecdotes about guns saving people or causing problems. See **CHRISTOFANELLI**, page 5

In these discussions, however, the real debate about the need for guns and the real meaning of Second Amendment is completely overlooked. The reason we have a right to gun ownership is not to protect ourselves from criminals, but rather, to protect ourselves from history's cruelest enemy of the people: the government.

The founders of this nation were radical people. They believed firmly in inalienable rights. In the Declaration of Independence, they stated clearly that government existed among men in order to preserve and protect these rights. As soon as the government becomes destructive to this end, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish said government (and they didn't mean by asking nicely).

So where did the founders get these ideas about the occasional need for violent revolution? From none other than the erudite philosopher, John Locke. In one of his most famous quotes, John Locke said, "whenever the Legislators endeavor to take away and destroy the Property of the People, or to reduce them to Slavery under Arbitrary Power, they put themselves into a state of War with the People, who are thereupon absolved from any farther Obedience, and are left to the common refuge which God hath provided for all men against force and violence."

You need the U-Pass!

Louis Liss
Op-Ed Submission

Take away my U-Pass and you take my mobility, livelihood and access to the St. Louis community. Through the U-Pass program the University pays a discounted rate to Metro for transit passes and distributes them to students, faculty and staff at no additional cost. While some criticize this opportunity as abusing Metro, which is in the midst of a critical funding crunch, the program provides far more benefits than harm.

First, in terms of money, though the University pays Metro less than the \$145 per pass than other students in the region pay for their passes, the administration pays based on how many people are on campus, not how many actually request them. Therefore, Metro receives payment for the one-quarter to one-third of those eligible for U-Passes who do not request their passes. Moreover, Metro now receives more money from the University community than before the U-Pass program, because drastically fewer Washington University community members used transit before the program began.

Though some feel that the

University would evade paying the proposed sales tax to fund transit in St. Louis County, while the administration doesn't, the individual members of the community will be paying this tax.

Money aside, the U-Pass program is important to the city and is certainly not a new idea. The University of Missouri-St. Louis was the first St. Louis school to offer a U-Pass program, though they do charge students a fee for the passes. Southwestern Illinois College also used to participate in the program. In Pittsburgh, several large universities have a similar arrangement with the local transit agency Port Authority. Students ride free on public buses and are able to access local attractions and cultural institutions and bring capital and foot traffic to neighborhoods across the city.

By maintaining the U-Pass program at Washington University, we keep students, faculty and staff connected to city attractions, jobs, their homes and other universities. This connectedness keeps the region alive, and will continue to bring bright minds to the University and throughout the city.

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

STAFF EDITORIAL

High hopes for sexual assault prevention post

More than two years after the hiring process formally began—and almost two decades after the first conversations about the position—Washington University has finally filled a position that will coordinate sexual assault prevention and education efforts on campus.

The news that Kim Webb will lead a new Office of Community Health and Sexual Assault Services next year is long overdue.

For far too many years, the University has had no centralized way of coordinating the campus's violence prevention and survivor support networks. Our community remains woefully unprepared to handle the needs of the victims and survivors of sexual assault, both objectively and compared to our peer institutions. Student organizations like the Sexual Assault and Rape Actions Hotline (S.A.R.A.H),

the Committee Organized on Rape Education (C.O.R.E) and Men Organized for Rape Education (M.O.R.E) have collectively made significant contributions to the campus culture; their achievements, however, have been tempered by the absence of clear support from the University's administration. Webb's office will be vital in resolving each of these problems.

The new position will help centralize and streamline the violence prevention and education efforts on campus. It will give survivors a clear way to navigate the network of clinical and legal resources that already exist in Student Health Services and the Washington University Police Department, respectively. It will send a clear message to students, faculty and staff that sexual assault is a serious problem that cuts across our campus, requiring community-wide action. But it will not—and must not—be an end to the conversation about

sexual and relationship violence.

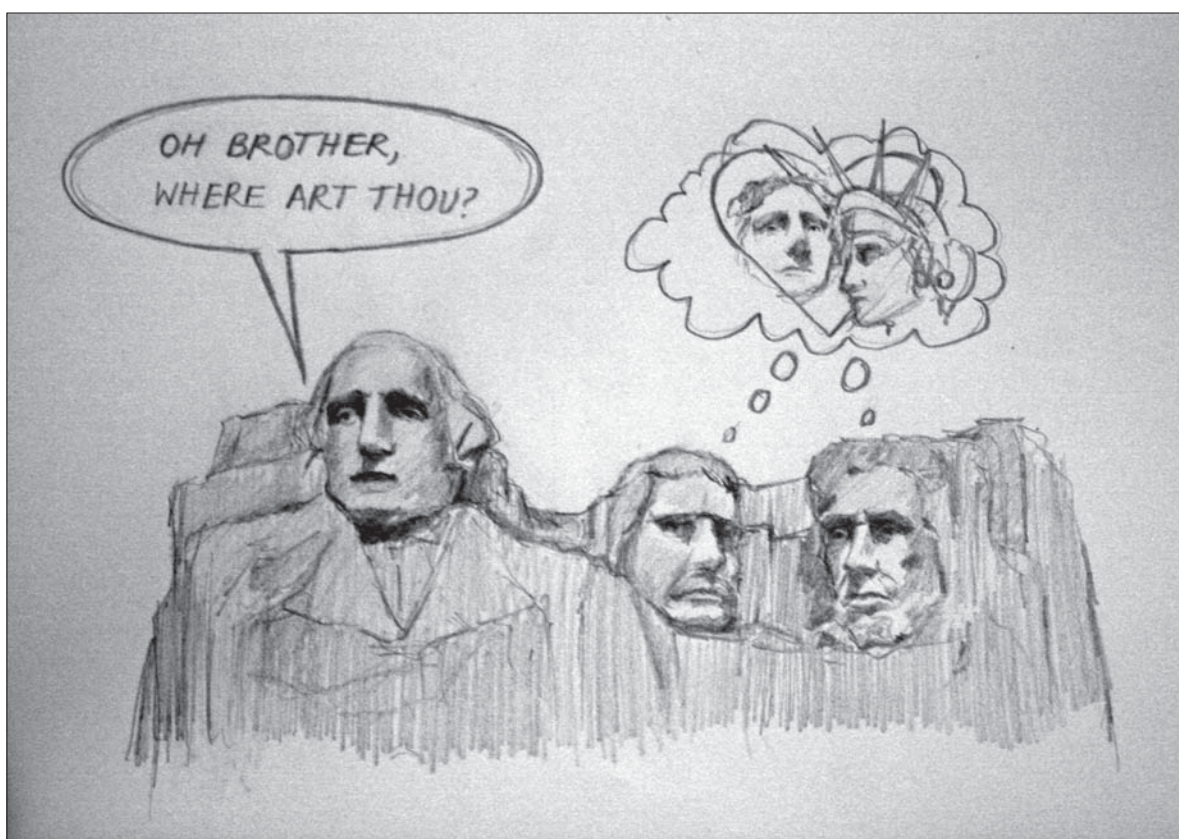
The most recent study of sexual assault prevalence at Washington University reveals the same horrifying reality as at every institution of higher education around the nation: One in four female students will survive rape or attempted rape during their time on campus. Given this reality, Webb must hit the ground running when she begins her new position on June 1. Beginning on her first day of work, Webb will have approximately two-and-a-half months to prepare for freshman orientation; although she may be tempted to spend the summer acclimating to campus, Webb must spend it working hard to prepare for what is statistically the most dangerous time for new students. In her job, she will need to be creative, innovative and at times forceful. She must challenge our community's definition of itself and strip away the assumptions that make sexual and relationship violence

endemic on campus.

Webb must learn from the lengthy process that has led to her hiring. Like most institutions, the University operates at a glacial pace. The nature of Webb's job will often put her at odds with the way in which both students and the administration have behaved in the past; nevertheless, she must remain resolute and rock the boat when necessary.

The campus must stand alongside Webb to help her reduce sexual violence. The extent to which the community at Webb work together will be the most important determinant of Webb's success. Sexual assault affects our entire community and the solution is similarly communal. Together, students, faculty and staff must be willing to support survivors who come forward, speak out when they see high-risk situations and recognize sexual assault prevention as the priority that it must be.

GODIVA REISENBICHLER EDITORIAL CARTOON



Eulogy to winter

Kemi Aladesuyi
Staff Columnist

It gave us many things: an excuse to stay inside, a reason to sleep in, an answer to why a few pounds may have settled around our midriffs. "Because it's winter and it's cold outside. Shorter days mean longer nights and more sleep in the first place. Gaining fat in preparation for hibernating during the winter is a vestigial evolutionary trait from a distant mammalian ancestor..." we were able to answer in chorus.

Winter is gone and I doubt that many of us have given winter the proper recognition and respect it deserves. Although I know that such a long, cold and dark season

meant so much to so many, and that my words are probably inadequate to capture its unique meaning for you, I hope you can appreciate a few general highlights about some of the season's general virtues.

How the bitterly cold wind that caused you to lose feeling in the tips of your ears and fingers encouraged you to partake in an international exchange of cold weather hats from other cultures such as Peruvian influenced chullos and Russian styled ushankas.

How the cold and damp that prevailed during the season (and caused you to be stuck in the cough-cold-flu cycle for a good two to three months) has drastically strengthened your immune system and provided you with future immunity, at least for a

few months before new strains evolve.

How ice and sub-zero temperatures not only gave you ample justification to wear sweatpants and comfortable, albeit slightly hideous, snow boots for weeks on end; but also, to guzzle delicious calorie-laden hot drinks like mugs of hot chocolate brimming with at least half a dozen snowman-shaped vanilla marshmallows.

But alas, no longer. Winter quietly slipped away during the past weeks, but it has continued to pass on at least one legacy, the spirit of academic excellence and achievement that causes our backs to hunch from overstuffed book bags, wrists to ache from thousands of words typed for papers and eyes to water from hours spent

reading scholarly texts into the wee hours of the morning.

I think winter would want us to remember that even though spring is awakening around us, to not be fooled by the warm sunshine, bright blue sky and crisp green grass that beckons us to frolic outside. Spring may give us just as many reasons to stay inside and work as winter did. Yet I think it would want us to be comforted (at least a little) by the fact that our occasional 2 a.m. trudge from Olin Library can now be accompanied by the cheerful chatter of songbirds.

Kemi is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at imekkemi@gmail.com.

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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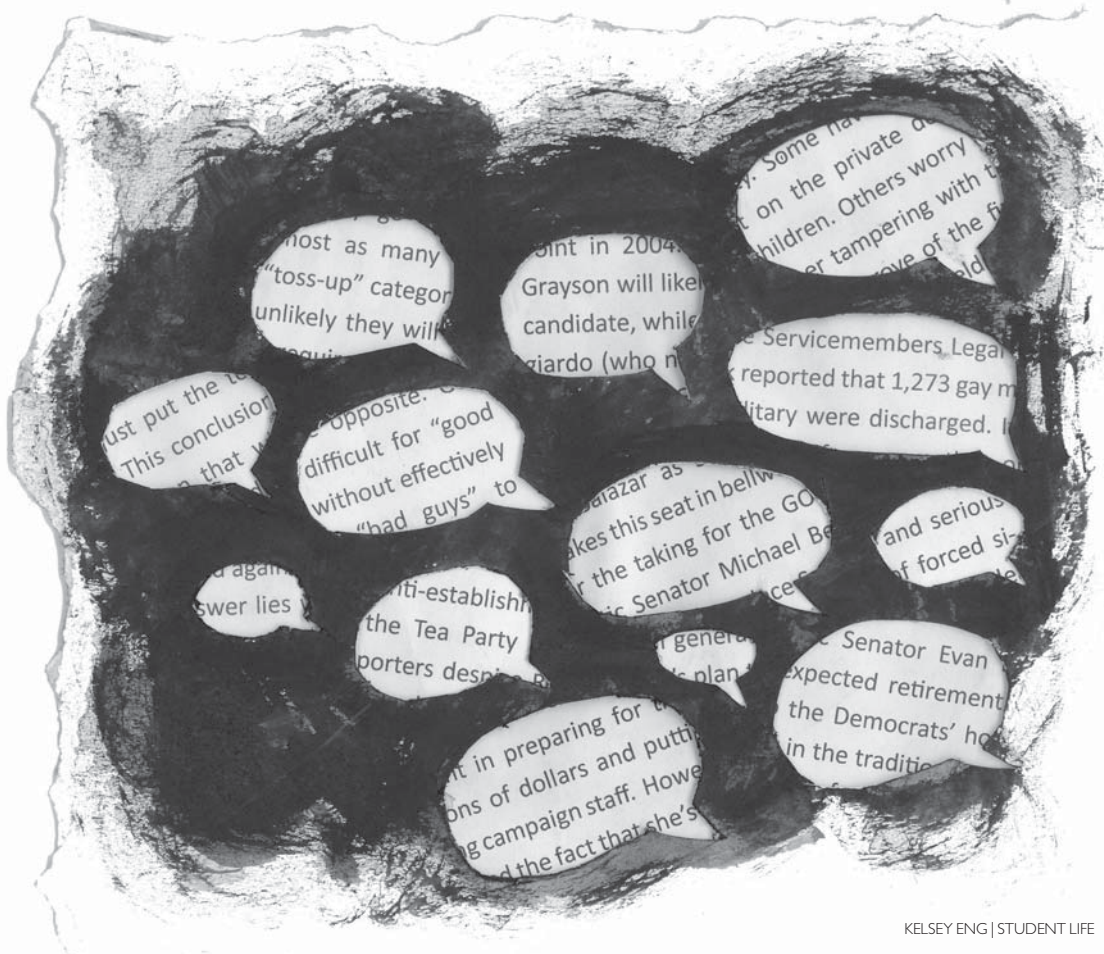
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What's in the politics?



KELSEY ENG | STUDENT LIFE

Charlie Low Forum Editor

I've always shied away from politics. I like to stay informed, but I don't like to argue with people about whether or not this senator is right or that proposition is wrong. With the recent passing of the health care bill, I've started to question whether a natural aversion to politics is good or bad.

No one cares how I was brought up, but I think you should know anyway. I was always told never to talk about two things at the dinner table: religion and politics. I really do think that lesson stuck with me. Whenever either is brought up, I quietly remove myself from the conversation. It's not an aversion to debate. I'll argue with anyone, even my dog. It's possible that my distance from politics comes from an inherent doubt that

my knowledge of current policy is comprehensive and well rounded, but then again I doubt that Glenn Beck cares whether what he's say-

Keep yourself informed, listen to the experts, formulate an opinion, vote and keep your mouth shut.

ing has any relevance at all. Granted, I find it difficult to make time to sit down and sift through political issues, and happen to think much of what is argued about is arbitrary. Lack of knowledge doesn't really apply to religion either, so I don't think that's at the heart of

my distaste for these discussions. It probably stems from a basic inability to prove anything in these arguments, coupled with the strong likelihood that you will inevitably offend someone or piss them off.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way, so should we feel bad about our cowardice in the face of politics? I don't think we should. An apolitical society, no doubt, would be chaotic; however, removing yourself from discussion, at least the verbal end doesn't require you to remove yourself from the process.

Personally, I think one of the best moves you can make is to keep yourself informed, listen to the experts, formulate an opinion, vote and keep your mouth shut. I realize the irony of the "keep your mouth shut" advice, given that it's coming from a columnist who asks you to care about what comes out of his mouth once a

week, but forgive me for the hypocrisy.

Disinterest is most certainly a bad characteristic to have, and I'm not advocating for that at all. Nor do I think that political debate among friends should be banished either. It is often stimulating conversation, but it should

Scream at the TV; it's often more satisfying than screaming at a real person.

be saved for appropriate times and for appropriate venues.

If you're really starving for political deliberation, tune into any news channel. There are enough bloviating nut jobs on TV to satisfy

even the most cavernous of political appetites. Then, you can scream at the TV; it's often more satisfying than screaming at a real person. There's none of that terrible guilt that comes after you realize you probably shouldn't have called your friend a Rush Limbaugh-worshipping right-wing neo-Nazi sack of c---, or leftist hippy environmentalist know-nothing self-righteous d---. (See how I offended both sides there; I'm a politician in the making, equal insults for all!)

When all is said and done, there's really no reason to foist your political opinion on anyone. If you don't like to shout your party colors from the top of a mountain, then don't, and don't feel inadequate about it.

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

Five worst places to be after hours

Selena Lane Staff Columnist

Last week, after unsuspectingly slipping into Olin Library despite its closure to the public (see my crazy Facebook album to come) during spring break, I extended my thoughts on the subject by compiling a list of the best places to go nuts in after the door is locked. It got you all thinking, I'm sure. What would you do if given the chance to run free in Shnucks? Eat, maybe. In an ideal world, perhaps the article sparked you to extend your thoughts to your neighbor, and you each compiled your own jolly list.

However, "best" is comparative, and if there are the top five places to go after hours, there are certainly a bottom five as well.

These are the places you just wouldn't want to find yourself in when the clock strikes late. The specific reasons for their being honored on such a list vary—but let's just say they all have one thing in common: You wouldn't want to have your birthday party here, kids.

5. Whispers

It's not so much of a bad place to be late at night, as it is a really common place to be late at night. Maybe it would be better for all of us if they just locked the doors and

forced us all to do our work at an appropriate hour.

4. Art Museum

We've all seen the movie trailer. Or, if you're particularly unlucky, the actual movie. In any case, I would gladly pass up Monet's watercolors coming alive and chasing me out to Art Hill. Though such an event would make a good sequel (second sequel).

3. Post Office

I used to, quite literally, fall asleep in line at the post office when waiting with my mother in my youth. Though I was always attracted to the P.O. boxes (What was behind them?!). In any case, the Post Office is generally to be

avoided at all costs, particularly by thrill-seekers. Oh, the insanity of bicycle-themed stamps.

2. Sun Dial Store

Ha! Haha! Get it?! An alternative number two would be something along the lines of "a store that generates happiness via solar power." If anyone ever finds one of these, tell me about it, and then we'll all not go at night together.

1. Prison

Yikes. The newest Lady Gaga video doesn't help its case.

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

CHRISTOFANELLI from page 4

That common refuge to which Locke refers is firearms, and the founders were keenly aware of this fact.

History has proven Locke's concern to be fairly justified. The first thing which any tyrant does before massacring his people is to take away their weapons. Hitler, Stalin, Castro, Pol Pot and Mao all were big fans of gun control. You can take all the statistics of how easy access to guns has led to higher crime rates or more accidental deaths, add them together, and you still wouldn't reach a fraction of the human suffering which could have been avoided if the populace under any of one those tyrants were

allowed to keep their arms. It is this concept which led to the creation of one of America's foremost gun advocacy

Hitler, Stalin, Castro, Pol Pot and Mao all were big fans of gun control.

groups, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership. Not only does a well-armed public serve as a

deterrent to government tyranny, but also as a deterrent to foreign invasion. Take the case of the Swiss in World War II. The Swiss are some of the most well-armed people on the planet. Their wealthy country would have proved a boon to Hitler's coffers had he decided to march across their nation as he did so many others. His generals warned him that taking over Switzerland would be a battle at every mile, however, because their population was so saturated with automatic weapons. Hitler ultimately decided to take an alternative route to France, saving the Swiss population countless deaths.

The moral of this story

is, when it comes to firearm ownership, there are bigger issues than small increases in the number of violent crimes. Guns are the people's last defense against catastrophes where the death toll is not in the thousands, but in the millions. Any serious discussion of gun policy in the United States should avoid getting bogged down in minor, technical details and remember the points in history when an automatic weapon would have come in handy.

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

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SPORTS

BASEBALL

Bears sweep Millikin amid long stretch

Alex Dropkin
Sports Editor

By Monday, pending clear weather, the Washington University baseball team will have played 10 games in only six days.

Senior Nick Vom Brack led the way to victory in two of those 10 games, against Millikin University on Wednesday, with a pair of two-run home runs.

"Situational, I haven't been hitting as well as I would've liked to," Vom Brack said. "For the most part, it hasn't been one of my stronger points on the year. [With the hits], it's kind of finding my groove again, getting back into rhythm, and doing what I know how to do. It was definitely big...and I'm just happy that I could come through."

Down by three runs in the fifth inning of the second game and hitless, the Bears needed a spark.

"[The Millikin pitcher] had been cruising up to that point," Vom Brack said. "He had shown signs an inning earlier that he was getting wild. Finally, by getting some runners on base...he started leaving some pitches in the zone that we really capitalized on."

After back-to-back walks, a double play and an RBI single, Vom Brack stepped up to the plate.

"I didn't even really get

the greatest pitch [to hit]," he said. "I just tried to put a good swing on it."

The Red and Green would push across two more runs in the inning, setting up a 5-4 victory.

In the first game of the doubleheader, Vom Brack's blast added two crucial runs in the sixth inning, pushing a one-run lead to three. The Bears gave up one run in the seventh to close the game 6-4.

The previous day's games at Illinois College were less successful, as the Bears picked up a split in the doubleheader. Wash. U. powered past the Blueboys 16-8 in the first game, behind six RBIs from junior Travis May, but lost 8-7 in the second game. Pitcher junior Eric Myjak gave up two runs in the bottom of the seventh for the walk-off loss.

"[The loss] was really tough because...we were down almost the whole game," said pitcher Adam Merzel, a junior. "We came back in the seventh inning and we went ahead. Then we just messed up a couple of bunt plays and they took advantage of it. That's baseball. It would've been great to win that game, but...we're just going to do exactly what we did last year—keep on rolling."

The Bears play six games at home this weekend, including a doubleheader Friday against the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The first pitch is scheduled for 12:30



PAUL GOEDEKE | STUDENT LIFE

Junior Travis May swings in Wednesday's 9-0 victory versus Benedictine University. The Bears swept Millikin University in a doubleheader on Wednesday.

p.m.

The Red and Green also have another doubleheader against the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on Saturday with the first pitch at 11 a.m., followed by another doubleheader against Knox College at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

"It's definitely a very busy time," Vom Brack said. "None of us have ever played this many games in such a short period of time. It's a lot of stress on the team...but I think it's something that we can definitely get through."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Fahey reflects on title run

Kurt Rohrbeck
Sports Reporter

With the Washington University women's basketball team taking the national championship this past weekend, head coach Nancy Fahey won her fifth title at Wash. U. as she improved her all-time record here to 571-100 (.851 percent). Fahey sat down with us to talk about what the championship weekend—and the season as a whole—was like for her and her team.

Student Life: When we talked to the players this past weekend, it sounded like what they had just accomplished hadn't really hit them. For you, having been there before, would you say you might have processed it sooner than they? And now, has it finally hit you guys that you won the national championship?

Nancy Fahey: Being fortunate enough to have experience, from a coaching standpoint, I think I did know a little bit. More than anything, I just wanted it for them—as much as I've wanted it for any other team that's played here. But that's probably the difference, is winning your last ball game, and that feeling is pretty special. So for me I'm still kind of walking 10 feet above the ground. I'm very excited for them. And since it's been so long in a sense, you just tend to appreciate it a little bit more.

SL: On Friday against Amherst, you guys were down 12 points late in the second half. Looking back, was there a single moment that got you guys back in the game?

NF: It was more a series of moments. It's a little bit foggy what happened first. I know [graduate student] Jaimie McFarlin made that half-court steal and for a layup, and then we had two threes, from [senior Zoë] Unruh and [sophomore] Claire Schaeperkoetter, back to back. I remember turning to my assistants, going, "We've just got to get this close." I know Amherst has pretty much been in control of every game this year, so when momentum started going, those were the three big things I remember happening, pretty close together, that kind of swung the momentum.

SL: You just mentioned McFarlin—obviously, before this year, she made the decision to come back as a graduate student for her fourth year of eligibility. How much has she brought here over the last four years? How different is this team this year without her?

NF: Obviously she's a key inside player that has a very good basketball IQ and is extremely explosive offensively. But there's a lot of key components of this team, and everybody's component is valued. Obviously, when she came back, we were excited, because that did give us experience and explosiveness that was nice to have this year.

SL: Was there a particular point in the season that you think might have sent this team on its way to the title?

NF: I usually can pick one out right away, and I don't know if there was one game that I thought we flipped into another level. I do think that winning at Chicago at the end of the year was a key component in getting our momentum going into the next six games. We were playing at a pretty high level when we started playing in the postseason. That's the key. There's several teams that could've won this national championship. It's just the series of components that are playing at that level that really put it together. I did think it was important to win that last game and win the UAA and get our momentum going.

since late January against Rochester, so, as you just hinted to, how much of a role do you think momentum played for you guys going into the tournament?

NF: Well, to be honest, most of those teams at that point were in the same boat. When you get to that last one or two weekends, most teams are on some serious winning streaks. So then it reverts to, are you peaking at the right time? It's oversaid, but it's truly important at that time.

SL: On a similar note to that, Amherst was No. 1 and undefeated going in. There are some people who say it's better to have that loss beforehand than to have that monkey on your back. Do you think maybe Amherst felt a bit of that?

NF: Well, when we had our undefeated seasons (in 1998-1999 and 1999-2000), I always told the kids, "You don't have to lose to learn." And I'm sure that's how Amherst felt. They were very much in control of their conference, and their streak was pretty solid. All I can say, in speaking for us, is that the competitiveness of our league really did help us prepare for a game like that.

SL: CBS showed a graphic during Saturday's game that had you fourth all time among basketball coaches across all levels, above University of Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma and right below University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt. What does it mean to you to be in that kind of company?

NF: It's very flattering, and I appreciate it. I just guess that I don't try to read too much, and that's quite frankly, because if you start reading your own...I appreciate it, I'm flattered by it, but I guess I just don't try to look at graphics. This is such a team game, and I'm pretty well aware of how fragile those statistics are. Right now Wash. U. won a championship, and that's what I'm happy about.

SL: As coaches, how much time do you give yourself to relax and enjoy this one before you start focusing on next year?

NF: I'm going to soak this one in for a bit. But to be honest, we've already talked about recruiting. We're going to enjoy it, but we understand people are already working on next year, so we've got to jump on it. We've been working constantly, so...enough, but not too long, I guess.

SL: The group of seniors leaving this year—Zoë Unruh, Janice Evans, Stacey Niese, Jaimie McFarlin—when was the last time you remember having to replace a group of seniors like this, and then how do you go about trying to replace any senior leadership that has achieved success?

NF: We've had outstanding leadership for several years. We've graduated impact seniors year in and year out. On our third national championship [following the 2000-01 season] we lost a very strong group and we had to come back that following year. You don't replace. You let the next year's team develop their personality, and you go to their strengths. They've had a great four years, a huge impact, but now I'm confident this next group understands now it's their turn, it's their time, and we'll let them develop their personality.

SL: The last thing that people read here, that they'll remember about this team: What would that be for you?

NF: It's a special group, a special time, and I appreciate all of the support. To the people that came up and watched throughout the entire season, not just the Final Four—a big thank you.

SL: You guys hadn't lost

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FABULATION



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Sophomores Ari Scott and Allison Reed in Lynn Nottage's sharp-eyed satire "Fabulation," directed by William Whitaker.

Davis Sargeant
Cadenza Reporter

Undine refuses to repent until diffused by an optimistic former drug addict (junior Chris Kammerer).

Shortly before I left for St. Louis, my parents told me I had their support, provided I did not loiter at home after graduation, waiting for life and employment to happen. The dreaded "boomerang generation," as the London Telegraph calls it, frightens even the most-confident mothers and fathers. While most would-be Benjamin Braddockes simply lack a sense of direction, Undine, the protagonist of the Performing Arts Department's latest comedy, returns home under more-desperate circumstances. "Fabulation," playing this weekend at the Hotchner Studio Theatre, adapts the parable of the prodigal son for today.

Unfortunately, the humor of "Fabulation" compromises its message. The play earns laughter with Undine's witty asides and observations, reacting to absurdities like her heroin-junkie grandmother, and the confession of a professor hooked on cocaine. Undine's acerbic tone is derived from her arrogance and embarrassment with her family. This one-dimensional conceit may bring comedy to Brooklyn, but, given Undine's intelligence, it makes Undine's slow realization of the error of her ways irritating. Lynn Nottage, the playwright, portrays Undine as a lesson by counterexample, using Undine's brother to declare, "There is no greater crime than abandoning your history." Though Undine encounters increasingly ridiculous scenarios, such as a rude bureaucracy, her flaws never complicate, giving an incomplete feeling to her eventual epiphany.

The plot of "Fabulation" is straightforward. After her husband leaves her bankrupt and pregnant, Undine (sophomore Allison Reed) must live with her impoverished parents, grandmother and brother (sophomore Diamond Skinner, junior DeMarco Mitchener, sophomore Carissa Ferguson and sophomore Malcolm Foley, respectively) in Brooklyn until her name is cleared. Fourteen years before, Undine scorned her family by declaring that they perished in a fire. Moreover, she returns home impenitent and defiant, proud of her obsession with glamour and appearance. Her morals disturb her family, who expected an apology. Depressed yet stubborn,

"Fabulation" nonetheless provides excellent entertainment. The acting, strong and believable, transports the audience from Manhattan to Brooklyn seamlessly. Though clearly establishing the importance of family, Undine's arrogance and fascination with sophistication make it difficult to relate to her as a protagonist. All the same, see "Fabulation" for its examination of morality in the slums and the importance of history.

GAMEREVIEW

S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Call of Pripyat Review: Geiger Counter-Strike?

Michael Yang
Cadenza Reporter

The setup

For sanity's sake, let's get the hyphens and acronyms out of the way first. "S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Call of Pripyat" is an open-world, first-person shooter with heavy RPG elements. Done? Great. It's the third game in the bleak, buggy, yet somehow sublime "S.T.A.L.K.E.R." series. All three are set in a fictionalized version of the real-life Exclusion Zone surrounding the city of Chernobyl, infamous for the disastrous nuclear reactor meltdown that took place in 1986.

Set directly after the first game, "Shadow of Chernobyl," the newest game puts the player in the military boots of one Major Degtyarev, who is sent to the Zone to examine the wreckage of five military helicopters and track down the cause of the crashes. The crash sites are strewn across three vast areas: the marshes of Zaton, the warehouses of Yanov and the desolate city of Pripyat itself.

It was a stark and stormy night

When you play a "S.T.A.L.K.E.R." game, you play for the atmosphere. Despite running on the ancient vodka-fueled steamboat that is the X-Ray Engine, "Call of Pripyat" still manages to convey an impressive sense of verisimilitude. Some landmarks are strikingly believable, such as the ship Skadovsk,

half of which was destroyed by some unknown force, with the remaining half serving as a makeshift stalker camp. But by far the most memorable location is the fully explorable city of Pripyat that the developers modeled on photographs of the deserted city. The resemblance is uncanny, and it stands out as one of my favorite areas in any game. Adding to the atmosphere is the series' unmatched dynamic weather system. Sprinting toward an abandoned elementary school verisimilitude in Pripyat while a thunderstorm rages overhead is an experience that only "S.T.A.L.K.E.R." can deliver.

Brutal living

The Zone is an impossibly brutal place, and at its core, "Call of Pripyat" is about raw survival. Radiation blankets most of the areas you trek across, sapping away health until you take anti-radiation drugs, or a swig of vodka if you're particularly desperate. If the radiation doesn't kill you, the heat waves, chemical exposure, psi-emissions or electrical shocks generated by other anomalies will. Or perhaps you'll be caught in one of the Zone's emissions, a daily occurrence resulting from the distant Chernobyl nuclear power plant ejecting its radiation.

During my exploration, I felt as if I was an unwanted trespasser in the Zone, and it was trying to expel me in any way possible. By the end of my first night in "Call of Pripyat," I realized that it wasn't the case that there are plenty of ways to die in the Zone, but rather that there are plenty of ways for the

Zone to kill me. It's a dark thought, but it's also a profound success for a game so meticulously built around its atmosphere. Because the Zone is such a remarkable location, it becomes more than a setting, and actually begins eliciting a response.

Let's make a deal

One mission saw me negotiating with bandits on the behalf of a fellow stalker who had been overcharged. I met with the bandit leader at the bandits' base, an abandoned gas station, where he told me that 7,000 RU would be enough to call off his men. When making moral choices in games, I'm always the first to jump at solving problems with words instead of violence. But this time, I didn't. "Shooting you is free," I said, and the bandit opened fire. I was hit—and bleeding—but I survived and quickly took him down with my shotgun, bandaging myself afterward. By now the entire camp was hostile, and I ended up killing a dozen of his men on the way out of the gas station. After making sure the area was clear, I looted their bodies for extra supplies.

I knew I made the right choice, because in the Zone, there is no morality. There is only survival. I knew that my armor could help me endure a gunfight if one broke out, and I needed that money for upgrades. I had no sympathy for the bandits. They shouldn't have been surprised by my act of violence—it's their area of expertise. I sold my scavenged supplies to the trader, healed up at the medic and informed Vano of the bandits' fate. "Call of Pripyat" made

me feel like a stalker, and that meant doing what was necessary to survive.

One part boring, two parts awesome

It's unfortunate that my pointless anecdotes and frantic gushing won't change that the "Call of Pripyat" is a highly acquired taste. The story is flimsy, with a finish that manages to be anticlimactic while wrapping up all loose ends. The slower pace will put off those looking for a nonstop man-shoot, and though some may embrace the more realistic features such as degrading equipment and bleeding out, there are just as many who aren't interested in a survival simulator.

It doesn't help that "Call of Pripyat" looks dated, even for one of the first DirectX 11 games. Despite the spectacular environments, the characters are blocky and the animations jerky and stilted. The guns sound like someone stamping on a hollow wooden floor, and as is the case with most games developed in the Eastern Bloc, the English voice acting makes me want to drown myself in borsch. But in a miraculous turnaround, "Call of Pripyat" bucks the series' trend of being unplayably buggy. It didn't crash once during my playthrough, nor did I experience any quest-breaking glitches.

Despite it being arguably the best game of the series, "S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Call of Pripyat" is not a game for everyone. Indeed, it may not even be a game for most people, given how unabashedly unforgiving it is. It is, however, one of the best-realized worlds in gaming, and for players who enjoy a bit of atmosphere in their games, Pripyat is calling.



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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Hippo's attire in "Fantasia"
- Fashionably smart
- Sun ray
- Actress Lena
- "Lion's share" fabulist
- Hockey great Phil, familiarly
- John Denver #1 hit
- Largest of the Near Islands
- Place for a massage
- Campaign funders
- Locale in a 1987 Cheech Marin title
- "Yay!"
- Charon's river
- Rub elbows (with)
- Western ___ history class, briefly
- Like many salons
- Andalusia abodes
- Bulls and boars
- Prefix with metric
- Informal discussion
- Shell collector, maybe
- Cornerstone abbr.
- Is ___ likely will
- Meek
- Org. for drivers?
- Eco-friendly fed gp.
- "Tough luck"
- Senator Cochran of Mississippi
- Legendary siren
- Big batch
- Mariner's concern
- Part of YSL
- "The Lion King" lioness
- Furnishes food for
- Temple area of Jerusalem
- "Sonic the Hedgehog" developer

DOWN

- Repluss sort
- Bone near the funny bone
- Mite-sized

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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37 Grandson of Eve
38 Train station
40 It includes terms of endearment
41 Meeting of Cong.
46 Diacritical pair of dots
47 On a winning streak
48 Apply before cooking, as spice to meat

49 New York city
50 "Who cares if they do?!"
52 Math subgroup
53 Last: Abbr.
55 They, in Calais
57 Lama group
58 Church approval
59 Suffix with Congo
62 Rooting sound
63 Gardner of "On the Beach"

A reminiscence of a Cuban excursion

Allison Bischoff
Scene Reporter

While you may have spent your spring break catching up on homework or watching TV, 14 freshmen in professor Joseph Schraibman's FOCUS class *Stranger than Paradise: Cuban Experiences of Revolution* spent their break in Cuba. The students had learned about the history of Cuba from colonialism to communism during the fall semester and studied Cuban cultural issues this semester. The goal of the trip was to allow the students to have an interactive experience with the culture they had been studying in depth throughout the year. The students were also encouraged to practice their Spanish communication skills.

After speaking with students who went on the trip, I learned that most of them originally held the typical views our generation has of Cuba—a country wrought with poverty, stifled by communism and crumbling to the ground. Steve Fuller, one of the 14 travelers, said he expected “animosity towards Americans, and people angry about living in poverty.” To his surprise and relief, many of the Cubans the group encountered welcomed the college students with open arms, hospitality and a vehement curiosity about life in

America.

The greatest reward the trip provided was the opportunity for students to witness a society shrouded in stereotypes of mystery and hostility. The very first experience the students had was getting off the plane and walking through a group of completely silent people, who had been eagerly awaiting the arrival of loved ones they probably had not seen for years; right away, the students understood the difficulties faced by families who are completely cut off from the outside world. Upon entering the city of Havana, Antonya Gonzalez said she immediately noticed that all the vehicles parked on the road were straight out of the 1950s and '60s; this is due to the embargo enacted in 1962 under the Kennedy administration.

While staying in Havana for four nights, the students had the opportunity to experience the Cuban lifestyle firsthand. One family across the street from their hotel let some students into the home, which was a tiny two-bedroom apartment with a bathroom. Most people in Cuba work low-paying jobs, even lower than the worst-case scenario in the U.S. Something else that shocked the students was the lack of Internet and phone access. Cell phones are non-existent, while landlines and the



COURTESY OF BILL LITTLE

Freshmen in the FOCUS class *Stranger than Paradise: Cuban Experiences of Revolution* explored Cuba during spring break.

Internet are too expensive for the general population. Instead, the most widespread way of communicating is for people to wait in the streets, hoping that a friend may come by. Nevertheless, the majority of students said they were able to deal with the different environment.

During the trip, the students learned about Cubans' varied attitudes toward the communist regime in present-day Cuba. Most of the elderly people with whom they spoke either did not divulge their opinions on the government or were staunch Communist Party supporters. One older gentleman revealed that he had experienced the revolution and thought it accomplished everything it was supposed to, save some minor things. On the other hand, young students at the University of Havana believed that the tragic situation in Cuba is largely due to Castro's unconditional and unyielding control of the government. Our generation of Cubans seeks a government that is not necessarily like the American system, but one that does not restrict ordinary citizens' access to the outside world.

Though students explained that some American stereotypes of Cuba ring true, it seems as though we should not lose hope for a better Cuban future. Many

Cubans still attend school and seek higher education, even with no expectation of receiving a job better than that of a waiter. Also, though Cuban people do not necessarily like or agree with the U.S. government, most Cubans do not treat Americans they encounter with hatred; they are able to separate the people from the government, as they would want us to do with them.

The students also learned some astounding and unexpected realities of Cuba, including the fact that the Cuban people did not know about the 9/11 attacks until eight days after they happened. Furthermore, the U.S. is the fifth largest importer from Cuba. Thus, educated Cubans learn that the U.S. provides them with a large percentage of their income and appreciate the capitalist nature of the U.S. economy. Cubans are still taught in school that capitalism is inefficient and corrupt, however, while communism is for the people and will bring them security and happiness.

Students described the FOCUS trip to Cuba as an experience of a lifetime and were fortunate to have had the opportunity. Expeditions to enigmatic countries such as Cuba afford students the ability to truly understand and learn from a culture that is off-limits to most Americans.



Monica Mendal
Scene Fashion Columnist

As the Bruce Springsteen song goes, “There was 57 channels and nothin’ on.” How many times have you opened your closet door and uttered the words, “I have nothing to wear,” while staring into a sea of perfectly acceptable clothes that you bought, and at one point, convinced yourself that you’d just die without?

Example: I was in a friend’s room the other day helping her get ready. As she went to open a drawer, she moaned the aforementioned words: “I have nothing to wear.” I rolled my eyes and laughed as I watched her try to slam shut the drawers that were filled to the brim with shirts galore. As I saw her struggling, I realized that it would literally defy science if she were able to shut the drawer, considering the abundance of crinkled-up clothes within. This got me thinking about materialism—well, I’m always thinking about materialism, but go with me here. We’re living in a country of excess. Nothing’s ever enough. And nowhere is this idea more obvious than in the fashion world.

In terms of having nothing to wear, it doesn’t help that the fashion industry provides us with new trends as the seasons change, often leaving us jaded by our outdated wardrobes. Oscar Wilde once said that

“fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months.” We always want the best new thing. We want his Ted Baker Oxfords or her Milly blouse. This raises the questions: Are we ever really satisfied? Is enough ever enough? Do things really start to turn, dare I say it, “ugly” that quickly?

The solution? Accessorize! Revolutionary, huh? With all the fabulous advancement in fashion nowadays, you don’t have to rely solely on your clothes to make an outfit. In fact, if I relied entirely on my T by Alexander Wang tanks and J Brand skinny jeans to determine my outfits every day, I would have a pretty dull sense of style, no?

So this is what you do: Stock up on basics and add some fun accessories to spice up your look. Take a basic sheer tee, for example, and pair it with some chunky earrings one day, a multi-chain necklace or bib necklace the next. Maybe dip your hands in big vintage rings, throw on a fedora, and then top it off with a vest, boyfriend blazer or leather jacket.

Don’t be afraid to wear an outfit more than once. That being said, try to be creative and wear it in a different way—soon you will find that you have the “seasonless” wardrobe you’ve always dreamed of, and will never again find yourself saying, “I have nothing to wear.”

Stepping Out

Mike Shannon’s

620 Market St. St Louis, MO 63102



Hana Schuster
Scene Regular Features Editor

I know that college students’ budgets don’t often allow for \$50 steaks, but if your parents happen to be in town and you can rope them into taking you out for dinner, Mike Shannon’s is definitely worth a try. In fact, during my last visit to Mike Shannon’s, I went through the daunting task of introducing my boyfriend to my father. This had the potential to be a nerve-wracking situation, but thanks to some deliciously hearty steaks, the conversation flowed as smoothly as béarnaise sauce.

The interior looks like a typical steakhouse with a few modern touches like floor-to-ceiling glass windows and flat screen TVs showing various baseball games. (For those of you who don’t know, Mike Shannon’s is named for the famous Cardinals player Mike Shannon.) As such, Cardinals

T-shirts and autographed photos of players adorn the walls. The restaurant’s atmosphere is an interesting cross between a baseball fan’s hangout spot and a chic, sophisticated eatery. This actually provided the perfect setting for the big father-boyfriend introduction, as it was a slightly formal but relaxed environment that took the pressure off of my father and boyfriend. My father’s love of baseball didn’t hurt either.

The wait staff was knowledgeable and polite but certainly not overbearing. After we debated over appetizers for quite some time, our waiter thankfully stepped in with a couple suggestions, which we gladly took. We ordered the jumbo lump crab cakes with a delicious basil remoulade and a spicy aioli that gave the mild crab a nice kick. We also tried the traditional Caesar salad, which was good but definitely nothing special. And finally, we had the “Tuna Two Ways,” which

is a combination of Italian and Asian tartare and was perhaps the most interesting and delicious of all the appetizers.

But of course, you don’t go to a steakhouse for the appetizers, so let’s move on to the meat of the matter: the steaks. My boyfriend and I both ordered the tenderloin filet—I got the 8-ounce portion while he ordered the 12-ounce one. My father protested our choices, saying that the filet cut never has enough flavor for him, and he proceeded to order the dry-aged rib eye.

The béarnaise sauce served with the tenderloin filets was excellent; it had just enough eggs and butter to give it a perfect consistency, but not too much that it covered the delicate flavor of the shallots and white wine. The rib eye, as my father said, indeed had more flavor. This is because it is marbled with fat, due to the location of the cut near the cow’s upper rib cage. It was probably the most delicious

(not to mention largest) steak on the menu.

To accompany the beef, we ordered several side dishes including the best creamed spinach I’ve ever had, thick, buttery mashed potatoes and fresh blanched asparagus with parmesan cheese. The side dishes were larger than we had expected, but each added great depth to the flavors of the steaks.

Unfortunately, we did not have room for dessert, as we managed to consume almost all of our steaks and sides. We still left feeling more than satisfied and said farewell to our friendly waiter, the baseball players smiling down at us from their frames on the wall and all the uneaten crème brûlée and apple pie.

All in all, it was a very successful evening—Mike Shannon’s left a good impression on us. And, it even allowed my boyfriend to leave a good impression on my dad (not an easily accomplished feat!).