



STUDENT LIFE

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Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Female undergrad raped, robbed along Skinker

*Victim released
from hospital
Monday
afternoon*

Sam Guzik
Contributing Reporter

A female undergraduate was raped early Monday morning while walking from the Danforth Campus to the DeMun neighborhood.

According to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the victim was walking south on Skinker Boulevard near Northwood Avenue around 12:30 a.m. on Monday when an unknown suspect overtook her from behind.

The assailant, who was not

known to the student, forced her between two buildings and raped her. During the incident, the attacker indicated that he had a knife but did not display it.

After the assault, the suspect took money from the victim and fled the scene. St. Louis Metropolitan Police are investigating the rape; as of this writing, police had not released any information about the crime beyond a description of the suspect and basic details of the victim's report.

The victim was treated at a local hospital and, according to Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Steve Givens, released Monday afternoon.

"Obviously we're very concerned about her and helping her get through this situation, so we've reached out to her and her family," Givens said.

See RAPE, page 2

Rape prompts University to expand shuttle service

Sam Guzik
Contributing Reporter

Following the rape and robbery of a female undergraduate leaving campus, the University has expanded its door-to-door shuttle service for students living in off-campus housing.

Known as Campus2Home (C2H), the shuttle's vans leave from Mallinckrodt Center and Brookings Drive every half-hour and take students directly to their residences off-campus rather than operating along a fixed route.

The University's decision to expand the shuttle service was overshadowed on Monday by some students' concerns that a reference to the Campus2Home program in the e-mail with the crime alert created the impression that the student raped early Monday morning was partially at fault for the attack.

Although the decision to

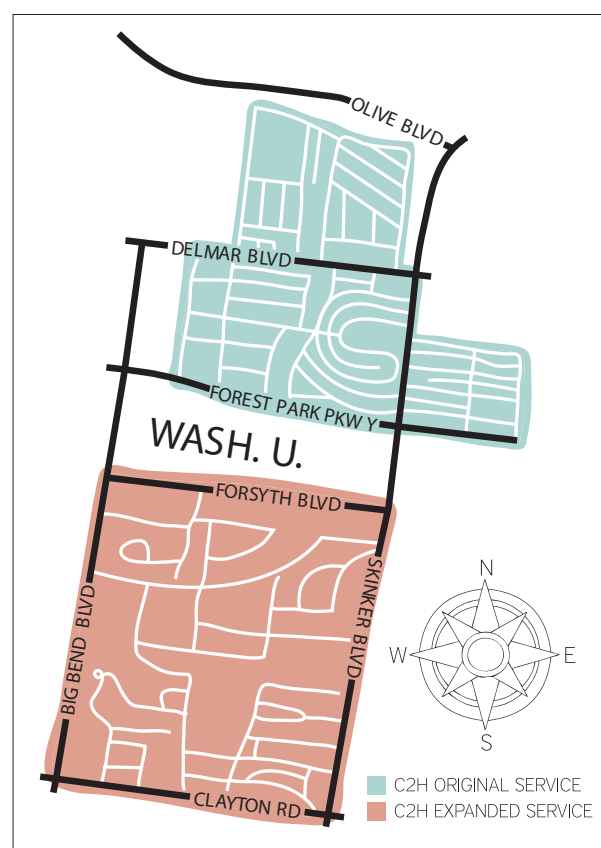
expand Campus2Home was made at the same time that the University chose to send out a campus-wide alert, that e-mail did not include a reference to the expanded service.

Steve Givens, associate vice chancellor for public affairs, acknowledged that the decision to promote Campus2Home without mentioning the expansion was "a mistake," but the additional coverage remains an important service to students.

"We included in the crime alert that Campus2Home was available; what we didn't do is include that there was an expansion," Givens said. "In the rush to get that statement out, it could have been worded better."

Junior Danielle Wallis, co-president of the Committee Organized for Rape Education, stressed that references to the shuttle should not overwhelm the fact that the

See SHUTTLE, page 3



Coal debate heats up Graham Chapel



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Bruce Nilles, left, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign for the Sierra Club debates Fred Palmer, right, Senior Vice President of Government Relations for Peabody Energy, in the Great Coal Debate on Tuesday in Graham Chapel. Nilles presented the negative aspects of coal and its impact on greenhouse gases, while Palmer discussed the prevalence of coal usage and green coal.



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Michelle Merlin
Senior News Editor

An old-time cowboy and a suave Washington lobbyist faced off in Graham Chapel Tuesday to discuss the future of coal.

The Great Coal Debate, hosted by Student Union and organized by the Washington University Climate Justice Alliance, brought two opposing men into the same debate. Fred Palmer, the senior vice president of government relations at Peabody Energy, sported black cowboy boots to go up against

Bruce Nilles, the director of the Beyond Coal Campaign for the Sierra Club.

Brian Walsh, the writer of Time's "Growing Green" column, moderated the debate.

Peabody Energy is the largest private-sector coal company in the world. It produces coal to fuel 10 percent of the United States' electricity generation and 2 percent of electricity generation worldwide. The CEO of Peabody Energy serves on Wash. U.'s board of trustees, alongside the CEO of Arch Coal, a coal mining and processing company.

Palmer started off the debate,

giving a presentation about the necessity of coal.

He noted that it cheaply fuels American homes and developed countries worldwide.

"Coal will now be our path to greater prosperity, industrialization, a clear environment and a source of low-carbon energy for both the United States and the world in what we call green coal," Palmer said.

Palmer has great hopes for the concept of "green coal," which produces no emissions. This coal has not yet been produced.

Palmer stressed that coal is what brings people electricity and

civilization, repeating that coal leads to "more people, living longer, living better," and showing a chart correlating use of coal in various countries with life expectancy and education.

"This is a reality in Africa," Palmer said, showing a picture of Africans in the middle of a plain carrying presumably food or resources on their backs, in "abject poverty and living off the land."

Palmer expects that coal use will increase significantly over the next 30 years, and so the goal should be to find a way to get coal's emissions down to near

zero.

Palmer also explained that people look at carbon dioxide wrongly and that they should look at it as a product and not a pollutant.

"We're good at focusing on the negatives [of coal], not the positives," Palmer said.

He also pointed out that coal is used globally and is not solely a resource in the United States. China's and India's coal use is rapidly growing, and Palmer promoted the idea of "green coal" again to fit the situation.

Nilles' presentation differed in that it focused on the negatives

of coal and the lack of progress made on so-called "clean" or "green coal." He started off stating that 81 percent of all greenhouse emissions come from coal, even though it accounts for less than 50 percent of electricity.

"This promise of capturing carbon is simply a promise that hasn't been realized," Nilles said.

Not only have coal companies not lived up to their promises, but also, their facilities are not kept up to date. Nilles said that about 70 percent of coal-processing

See DEBATE, page 2

New DWI bill can draw blood without warrant

Gina Hyun
Contributing Reporter

In 2009, there were more than 900 fatalities in Missouri due to alcohol-related vehicular accidents. If the State Legislature passes a new driving-while-intoxicated (DWI) bill, students will be forced to think twice before convincing themselves that they are sober enough to drive after a few drinks on a Friday night.

If the bill is passed, the police will have authority to seize blood samples from

suspected drunken drivers without a warrant.

Approved by the Missouri House earlier this month, the new bill calls for a drastic overhaul in the way intoxicated drivers are punished and repeat offenders are tracked. Drunk-driving cases will be judged with more severe consequences and in state courts instead of municipal courts.

Rep. Bryan Stevenson, R-Joplin, the bill's sponsor, believes that the current laws are insufficient and deadly. He hopes that if the bill is passed, the harsher consequences will encourage more

problematic drinkers to seek treatment.

The bill is the product of a 2009 Post Dispatch investigation that found that St. Louis-area police, prosecutors and judges fail to adequately punish drunken drivers. After the investigation concluded, Gov. Jay Nixon called for dramatic changes to a broken system.

"There are simply too many gaps in our current system," Nixon said in a statement in December. "The way we handle drunken-driving

See DWI, page 3

Obama proposal breathes new life into Mars exploration

Becca Krock
Staff Reporter

Mars exploration is a specialty at Washington University. If President Obama's proposal for NASA to aim for a human landing on Mars by 2030 is enacted, University scientists would be part of this grand endeavor.

Ray Arvidson, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, directs the Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory, which is heavily involved in NASA's

planetary exploration efforts. He is currently exploring the surface of Mars with multiple probes, including the Spirit and Opportunity probes.

"The more we look with the two rovers, the more excited we become for lots of evidence for water in the past, and even continuing occasionally today," he said.

This April, Obama announced his plan for NASA's future. The central objective is to shift focus away from returning to the moon and instead aim for an asteroid and Mars.

Arvidson's group would be

instrumental in the exploration to prepare for a Mars landing. The rovers' finding that there is plenty of ice on the surface, for example, opens the possibility that we might be able to use Martian ice for drinking water and even to help make rocket fuel, Arvidson said.

This strategy, called in-situ resource utilization, would be cheaper than carrying all resources on the spacecraft. And it could be vital to survival, as people would have to stay on the surface for as long

See MARS, page 2

THE FLIPSIDE

weatherforecast

Wednesday 28

Mostly Sunny
High 73
Low 53



Thursday 29

Mostly Cloudy/Wind
High 80
Low 62



eventcalendar

WEDNESDAY 28

Acting II / Advanced Playwriting Collaboration
2:15-4 p.m., Women's Building Studio II
Bill Whitaker's Acting II class will be performing their final scenes and Carter Lewis' Advanced Playwriting class will be showing their final scenes. Support your classmates.

THURSDAY 29

Kiva Cupcake Fundraiser
11 a.m.-2 p.m., DUC Commons
Buy cupcakes from the Cupcakery with cash or your campus card to benefit KIVA, an organization which supports entrepreneurs in developing countries. The fundraiser is put on by Sigma Iota Rho.

W.I.L.D. Happy Hour
5-6:30 p.m., Bowles Plaza
CPC and Team 31 present the last Happy Hour of the semester. Come for pizza, subs, ice cream, slushies, popcorn and music.

Going Green: A Corporate Perspective on Energy & Sustainability
7-9 p.m., Whitaker Hall Auditorium
Execs from Ameren, AT&T, Boeing, GE Energy and Monsanto will attend this conference, hosted by the IEEE. Come learn about these business leaders' sustainable initiatives.

newsbriefs

National

Oklahoma legislature OKs abortion limits

The Oklahoma State Legislature continued to chip away at abortion rights yesterday when it voted to override vetoes on restrictions placed on women who are seeking out the procedure. According to The New York Times, one such measure dictates that a woman must have an ultrasound with a doctor present to point out specific features on the fetus. This measure also applies to women who are the victims of rape or incest. A second measure dictates that doctors cannot be sued for malpractice if they fail to inform patients that a fetus has birth defects. The bills which spell out these measures were both vetoed by Governor Brad Henry last week. (Chloe Rosenberg)

International

Following close election, Iraq's gov may change

The tumultuous political situation in Iraq drags on, now seven weeks after close parliamentary elections were held. A winning candidate was just recently disqualified because of his alleged allegiance to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. This may completely change the outcome of the election, opening up the possibility for Prime Minister Nuri Kamal-al-Maliki to form a coalition government after his coalition lost by a slim margin of two seats to former interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's secular coalition. Allawi's group originally won 91 seats as compared to Kamal's 89. Neither was able to form a coalition government, leading experts to question the immediate future of Iraq's political situation. An electoral court has been making an effort to purge the Iraqi government of those who remain loyal to the Baath Party. (Chloe Rosenberg)

policebeat

LARCENY—April 24, 6:01 p.m.
Location: PARKING LOT No. 9
Summary: Complainant reported a vehicle break-in and theft of his cell phone valued at \$175. Time of crime 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Disposition: Pending.

LARCENY—April 25, 6:57 p.m.
Location: PARKING LOT No. 37
Summary: Complainant reported that between 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., (an) unknown person(s) stole his GPS and handheld camcorder from his vehicle. Loss value of \$529.00. Disposition: Pending.

TRESPASSING—April 26, 6:17 a.m.
Location: OLIN LIBRARY
Summary: Security reported a subject who was attempting to enter the library after hours. Officers located the subject and identified him as the subject from the previous day who had been harassing students. Disposition: Cleared by arrest.

AUTO ACCIDENT—April 26, 8:10 a.m.
Location: SNOW WAY GARAGE
Summary: University Police vehicle struck a parked car in Snow Way Garage. Minor damage. Disposition: Cleared.

AUTO ACCIDENT—April 26, 10:03 a.m.
Location: DANFORTH GARAGE
Summary: A Dodge Durango struck two parked cars on the second level ramp. Disposition: Cleared.

LARCENY—April 26, 9:27 p.m.
Location: OLIN LIBRARY
Summary: Student reported (an) unknown person(s) stole his wallet and phone that he left sitting by the microwave in Whisper's Cafe. The theft occurred sometime between 2100 and 2110 hours. Loss value of \$473. Disposition: Pending.

MARS from page 1

as six months before the orbital mechanics of Earth and Mars allowed them to return.

Robotic exploration will likely pave the way for humans on Mars, by exploring and setting up a base before they arrive, he said.

Kirsten Siebach, a junior who has been working on the Mars rovers with Arvidson for more than a year and wants to continue studying planetary science in graduate school, appreciates that the new NASA plan focuses on technology development and unmanned exploration.

"I think you can get a lot more out of those for less expense than you can for manned missions," she said. "I'm always excited when it sounds like there will be more missions and more data to play with."

The future of American space travel has undergone some revision in the current administration. In 2004, President Bush announced his vision for the future of U.S. space exploration: a return to the moon by 2020. He also called for the aging space shuttle program to

be shut down, since the shuttles have reached the end of their life span.

But we don't yet have replacements for them, thanks to a lack of planning in the George H.W. Bush and Clinton administrations, Arvidson said. For a few years, we'll have to rely on other countries to take our astronauts to the International Space Station.

"So this plan would build a heavy launch vehicle that gets to lower Earth orbit, and somehow gets to the moon...that is a huge amount of money, and a lot of technology investment," Arvidson said.

But the program suffered from a lack of funding. It ran far over budget and past scheduled deadlines. To confront these problems, NASA commissioned a report on the costs of continuing with a moon landing and potential alternatives.

They concluded that going to the moon would cost a lot more money, and since we've already been there, we might get a better return on our investment if we aimed for a more challenging target. Rather than return to

the moon, why not go somewhere new?

"The upshot is to not try to go back to the moon, but rather to invest broadly in technology so we can go to more distant targets, and to involve the commercial sector much more heavily than has been done before," Arvidson said.

From Arvidson's perspective, this plan makes good sense. "So [President Obama is] actually investing either \$5 or \$6 billion more over the next few years than the Bush administration had, but I think in a more realistic way. There's a lot more technology investment, robotic precursor exploration and moving into deep space instead of going back to the moon. So I think it's all good... I personally think he had it right."

The commission identified asteroids as a target worth exploring. "An asteroid is a possible target that's scientifically interesting. And some come too close to the earth, and someday they're going to hit the earth, so we need to understand them."

The University plays a large role in the similar plan of

travelling to Mars since Arvidson and his group are already heavily involved in robotic exploration of the planet.

They have been exploring the surface of Mars with the Spirit and Opportunity rovers, which are both "way out of warranty, but still operating" after seven years. In addition, they also worked on the Phoenix probe, which dug around in the ice on the surface. Now, they'll be involved in three new proposed probes, including two to explore Venus' atmosphere and surface.

Arvidson says we know hardly anything about Mars, given that its surface area is similar to the land area of Earth. So far, though, the rovers have uncovered surprising evidence that it was once a warm, wet environment like Earth is now.

"Today it's incredibly cold. The only thing that's stable on the surface is water vapor, or snow and ice. But in the past, it was a different place... when you go very, very far back in time, there were standing lakes. There was snow and rainfall and an open hydrologic system."

RAPE from page 1

"Her family is now here, and she's released from the hospital and doing well. That's a relief, but obviously we've offered her counseling or whatever she needs to help get her life back."

On Monday morning, the University notified the campus community of the incident through a campus-wide e-mail and crime alert.

The decision to release alerts is made on a case-by-case basis; according to Steve Hoffner, associate vice chancellor for operations, the University issued an alert in this situation because "it involved a student and did occur in an area where we have a lot of University people living, both students and faculty,"

So there was concern because the suspect remained at large.

In the past, the DeMun

neighborhood had not been associated with the same volume of crime reported north of campus, leading many students to believe that it is a safer neighborhood.

"Generally, [DeMun] seems really safe," said Judson Kempton, a sophomore who lives in the area. "I wouldn't expect that sort of thing to happen."

Police described the suspect as a black male between 18 and 25 years of age, approximately 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 5 inches in height and weighing between 130 and 140 pounds. At the time of the assault, the suspect was wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt over a gray sweatshirt, blue jeans and white gloves.

Police request that any person with information relevant to the incident contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-371-8477.

DEBATE from page 1

plants were built before or around 1980 and have not been changed to account for new pollution controls.

He also drew the audience's attention to the problems of soot and smog around coal plants, touting \$750 million in health care costs in St. Louis alone directly related to the three coal processing plants in the city.

Their pollution is rampant, and, in addition to hurting humans, hurts the environment as a whole.

"There is no industry that does a better job of creating regulatory loopholes," Nilles said.

Nilles also thought that the economic benefits touted by coal companies is a farce and that more jobs could be created in

new "green energy" (not coal) sectors.

After each speaker made his 20-minute presentation and the moderator asked one question, the floor was opened to questions.

When asked if he believed in global warming, Nilles responded that Peabody had agreed to the President's proposal of an 80-percent reduction of emissions by 2050.

"We recognize the concerns people have regarding climate change," Nilles said. "We do think there is too much emphasis on computer model projections in the future and not enough emphasis on people now and our lifestyles and our wealth and our health now and the health of our kids now."

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SHUTTLE from page 1

incident occurred because of choices made by the attacker, not the victim—a reality often overshadowed in mainstream understandings of sexual assault.

"It's less an issue about how the crime alert was worded and more about how we read it," she said. "There's nothing blameful about what she did," Wallis said.

Previously, the Campus2Home program was available only to students, faculty and staff living in neighborhoods north of campus—specifically University City and Skinker-DeBaliviere.

On Monday evening, shuttles began to serve neighborhoods south of campus, particularly the DeMun area where the assault occurred. The additional service is in direct response to that incident.

"We had a very tragic event," Givens said, and that provided an impetus to reconsider how best to serve the needs of students.

"Something like this happens, and it's good to reflect,"

he said.

Campus2Home service is now available in the area between Forsyth Boulevard and Clayton Road, from Skinker to Big Bend, in addition to the neighborhoods north of campus that were previously available. The service runs from 7 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. seven days a week.

When the service first began in February, the University chose to focus its efforts on neighborhoods north of campus because of the concentration of students and University-owned off-campus property in the area.

Until now, the service has remained relatively unknown, operating far below its capacity. According to Steve Hoffner, associate vice chancellor for operations, approximately 20 students use the service each night and use has been approximately evenly divided between graduate and undergraduate students.

The service has the potential to serve up to 192 riders throughout each night—two 12 passenger vans make a total

of 16 trips.

"[Ridership] is good, but we have capacity for lots more than that," Givens said. "It's great for students to learn that this is available and make use of it whether they are going north or south."

Late Monday evening, the first night of expanded service, 43 individuals rode the shuttle, none traveling to the newly served area south of campus.

According to Hoffner, the yearly operating cost of the shuttle is \$230,000, but even if ridership continues to lag behind capacity, the program will continue.

"My personal opinion is that now that we've started this program it's going to be staying," Hoffner said. "I don't foresee at all that this won't be available next fall."

The service is scheduled to continue throughout the summer, though the University is currently conducting surveys that will determine whether a new set of summer hours will be developed.

DWI from page 1

cases in Missouri is broken. We must take bold and decisive steps to reform the way DWI cases are dealt with. We have a duty to protect Missouri families by improving every aspect of DWI enforcement, from the traffic stops that initiate cases to the sentences handed out by judges and even the way records of offenders are kept."

Among other measures, the bill requires drivers with blood alcohol levels of at least .15 to spend 48 hours in jail and of at least .20 to spend at least five days in jail.

Also, all municipal judges are required to complete courses on state drunk-driving laws and adopt written policies for their courts to report all DWI case dispositions to a central databank.

Moreover, the driver's

license revocation period will increase from one to two years for a person who refuses to submit to any blood-alcohol test. Despite the augmented severity in punishment, there is one bright ray of hope: a drunk driver who does not reoffend may have his record expunged after 10 years.

However, the bill's trumpeted reception has not been without opposition. Civil Rights activists as well as some Democrats in the state legislature are calling the bill unconstitutional for its warrantless powers.

Student support of the bill was also divided.

"Forcing blood to be drawn is a clear violation of our constitutional rights. Even though the bill does punish repeat offenders more harshly, it neglects the

underlying problem, which is their alcoholism. Even if a drunk driver's license is suspended for an increased amount of time, most repeat offenders ignore that anyway, so I don't really see the real issue being solved. This bill, if passed, would be a tyranny to the rest of society," said sophomore Sheri Balogun.

Other students seem more supportive of the measures.

"Drunk driving is a serious hazard to society, and I'm glad that the state of Missouri is making changes to more proactively combat the problem. Sure, I can see how the bill can be seen as unconstitutional, but sometimes, individual sacrifices must be made for the benefit of the greater population," freshman Ryan Wong said.

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Breast Cancer Research Foundation, New York, New York

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Shodor Education Foundation, Durham, North Carolina

Recruiting for: Computational Science Internship
Majors: All Majors
Apply end: 5/1

INFO SESSIONS

Solutia Inc.: 4/28, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM, Simon Hall, Room 241

U.S. Peace Corps: 5/6, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM, Danforth University Center, Room 234

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

JUNIOR JUMPSTART:

Deadline to Register: 4/30

Junior Jumpstart is a one-day conference sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences and the Career Center in partnership with the School of Engineering & Applied Science, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, and the Class of 2011. The event is designed to help in your pursuit of post-graduate opportunities. Registration is open to all juniors. The conference is May 13, 2010, following spring semester finals. Visit juniorjumpstart.wustl.edu.

CAREER CAMP

Early Deadline to Register: 5/24 **Final Deadline to Register:** 6/28

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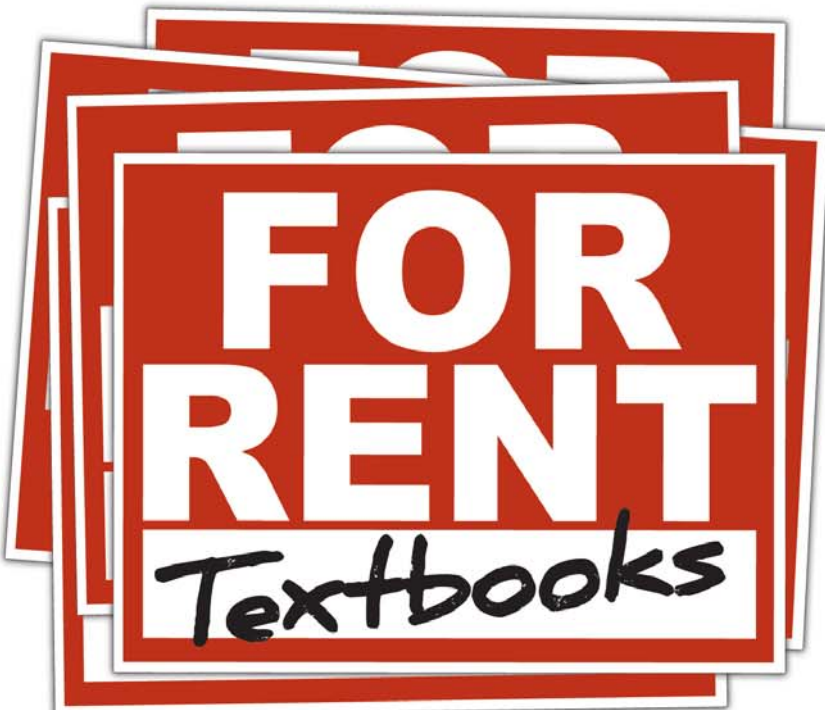
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STAFF EDITORIAL

University failed in response to assault

Early Monday morning, one of our fellow students was raped on her way home from campus. A crime of this severity does not occur often within our seemingly secure Wash. U. bubble, making the University's response all the more important.

However, Washington University delivered a rushed message that failed in its responsibilities. It is troubling that the University was unable to deliver a message that both communicated the serious dangers that were posed by the crime and that was sensitive to the survivor.

At 10:30 a.m., a University-wide crime alert and memo was e-mailed, informing the campus community of a sexual assault that occurred early that morning on Skinker Boulevard.

Our first concern with the alert was the use of the term 'sexual assault.' Broad in scope, sexual assault can refer to anything from inappropriate touching to sexual harassment to rape, which is specifically defined as forced penetration. After the announcement, many students questioned the nature of the crime and were unaware that their fellow student was raped.

While the University should not propagate fear, it is crucial that the campus know that a fellow community-

member was raped. The community needs an accurate representation of the crime in order to take the appropriate safety precautions, and in circumstances like these, the University must work to ensure that the severity of the situation is reflected in the message it delivers. By deliberately choosing the term sexual assault, the University downplayed the dangers present in the areas around campus.

Although the University's intentions were certainly not to suggest that the victim was partially at fault for this attack, by listing safety precautions in the e-mail with the crime alert, it suggested that the student could have prevented the rape, when it was the attacker and only the attacker who committed this crime. The University implied that the student could have prevented her attack by using the Campus2Home shuttle. The alert failed to mention that shuttle service did not cover the area south of campus where the survivor was raped; service to that area promptly began Monday night. The administration should have been tactful in the composition of its message in order to ensure that it did not inadvertently place any blame on the survivor. While people should be aware of effective safety measures and the Campus2Home shuttle service, this was not the place to mention

University services or general precautions.

From the campus-wide alert, it is clear that the response was delivered in haste and the University placed its image over delivering an incisive and accurate message. The Washington University administration used the campus-wide alert system not only to inform the community of the attack but also as a vehicle for public relations, sidestepping its appropriate use: a message system that sensitively communicates the dire seriousness of the situation to the campus. The first alert to students should have been a crime alert. A subsequent notification could have informed students of security services offered on and around campus while maintaining proper distance from the facts surrounding the crime.

WUPD, Student Health Services, the administration and the new assistant director for community health and sexual assault services, who is set to begin in June, are vital aspects to the prevention and management of such crimes, but they need to separate the dissemination of advice on crime prevention and support from distribution of the hard facts. This will assure that the University is seen as empathetic to the victim and is working to prevent these attacks in the future.

Why we didn't issue a warning

Mark Bagby
Op-Ed Submission

Many university emergency management officials across the country continuously are asked questions from their university community about why they did or why they did not issue an emergency alert due to some incident on or off-campus. I would like the opportunity to clarify why the University chose not to send out an alert message via the WUSTLAlerts system in reference to the severe weather that occurred in the St. Louis area on April 24, 2010.

WUSTL's Campus Operations/Emergency Management Office was in constant consultation with WUPD during Saturday's storm and made the decision not to issue a University-wide text message or an e-mail through the WUSTLAlerts system. Also, since an alert was not sent, we did not feel the need to post anything to the emergency.wustl.edu website or emergency hotline (935-9000). I am sure that we can be second-guessed on this one, but here's the rationale for our decision:

We were watching local news and monitoring the National Weather Service website with constant radar updates showing the storm's position and the speed at which it was moving. Based on what we were seeing, it

appeared that the storm path did not include the University. Because it was moving so quickly and not tracking toward the University, we did not feel that we could adequately get a University-wide notification out before the storm would have passed.

We were also advised by WUPD that the outdoor warning sirens had sounded on campus (as well as in STL County and St. Louis City). Our primary concern at the moment was for those who would have been outside attending events, such as the ThurtenE Carnival. WUPD advised us that those who had been at the carnival had been evacuated to nearby buildings (per the Carnival's emergency plan) and were safe.

St. Louis County controls the activation of our sirens. It is their policy to activate the sirens whenever a tornado warning is issued for St. Louis County or for an adjacent county. Their activation policy can be viewed at http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/police/oem/siren_1.html.

As you hopefully know, there is information on the University's emergency website (<http://emergency.wustl.edu>) and included in our Where to Go materials about how to respond to severe weather warnings. In addition, our Office of Residential Life provides

information twice a year to all students living on campus regarding the proper procedures to follow in the event of severe weather. We also provide a reminder about severe weather on the emergency website in the spring during Severe Weather Week each year. We will be adding a severe weather reminder to <http://emergency.wustl.edu> on Monday.

I was pleased to note that, based on the reports that I have heard, many different parts of the University acted quickly and properly to the tornado alert: Those attending the ThurtenE Carnival were evacuated to nearby buildings (Whitaker and Givens/Steinberg Hall), those in Olin Library were directed to the lowest level of the building by library staff, Resident Advisers and Residential College Directors advised students in our residence halls to go to the lowest level of the building, and those attending a social function on the South 40 were moved to an interior hallway.

As always, we will be reviewing our policies and procedures with our senior emergency management team. I appreciate your input, your suggestions and concerns.

Mark Bagby is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Campus Operations. He can be reached via e-mail at bagby@wustl.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

Like all students, I received a crime alert from the University on Monday morning regarding an off-campus sexual assault. I found the message concerning for a number of reasons.

First of all, the crime alert could have re-victimized the student in a number of ways. The e-mail emphasized the fact that she was walking alone late at night and even made the time of the assault later than the time listed in the official crime alert. Each of those portions of the message blames the victim for her assault, which is completely ridiculous; the rapist is the one at fault. Need I remind the University that it is NOT A CRIME to walk on a sidewalk? The message also spoke of a transit service that was not available to the student and further blamed her for the attack by suggesting that if only she had been more responsible, the attack would not have happened. The attack would not have happened if her rapist had not attacked her.

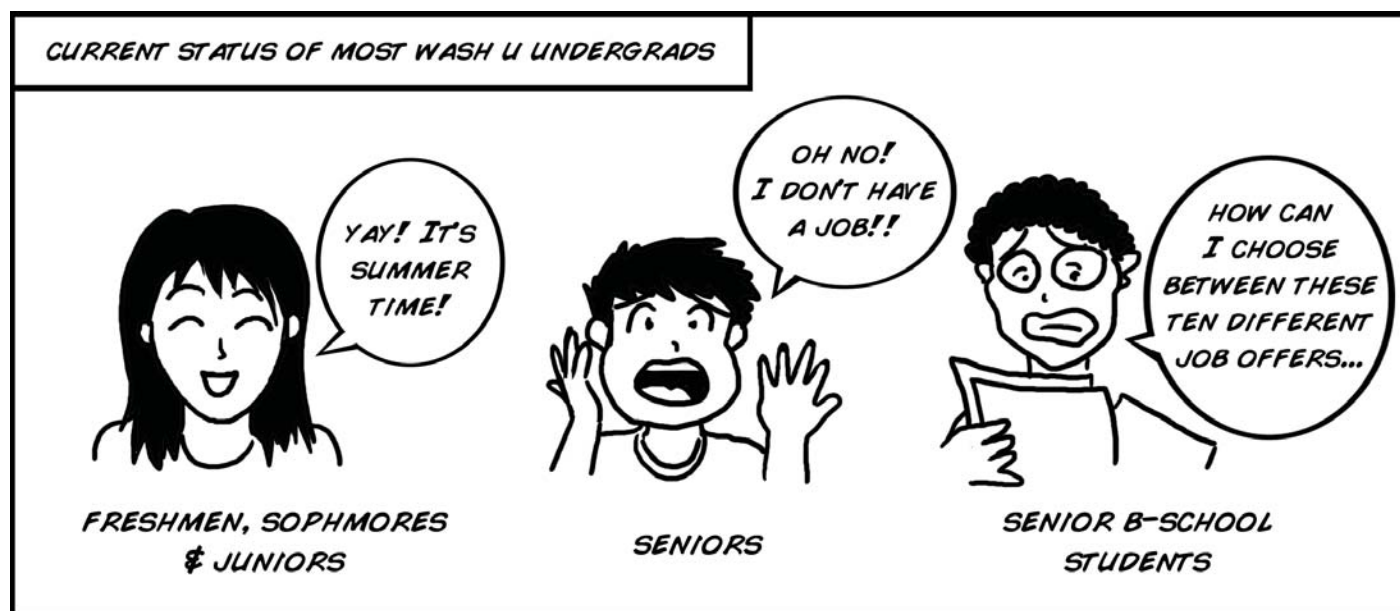
In addition, I was disappointed that this alert was the first such message that University students received this year with regard to a sexual assault. We received no crime alert when a student was assaulted in her dorm room on the South 40, although students are at a much higher risk for sexual assaults in their residences than outside them.

I hope that the University is more responsible with its crime alerts in the future, both in terms of content and decisions to release such e-mails.

Sincerely,

Lauren Weiss
Class of 2010

SNOW POWERS POLITICAL CARTOON



Silencing the sound bites

Eve Samborn
Forum Editor

The latest chapter in the ongoing war between the Internet's devotees and their mainstream media adversaries is an article in The New York Times Magazine about Mike Allen, writer of an e-mailed morning news digest called Playbook that is enormously popular with Washington, D.C., residents and other "politicos." The article reads a bit like a well-established pastor warning against the dangers of some new, misguided youthful craze. Virtuous and yet hopelessly quixotic.

Railing against the 24-hour news cycle sometimes feels like protesting the rotation of the earth. Now that technology has enabled the two to coincide, both seem equally irreversible.

But inevitability does not confer worth. Publishing newsworthy information is good; calling information "news" for the sake of publication is not. The Internet is the newest purveyor of puff, but it is not the only culprit. Both 24-hour news channels and online news outlets have the space and time to provide depth and context, yet too often that space and time becomes a void to fill rather than an opportunity for meaning. It elevates trivial sound bites at the expense of elevating our discourse.

The problem with entities like Playbook is that they attach more (and at best only equal) significance to one-line gaffes and their implications than to policy speeches and proposals. Rather than cover issues thoroughly or provide historical background and—most importantly—perspective, too often the media supply only an ongoing, insular loop of debate

about who's winning and who's losing.

Constant coverage also tends to wrongly treat speculation as news. What would be considered malpractice in any other forecasting field is standard in political punditry. It doesn't matter that the political chattering class totally mispredicted the presidential nominees in 2008 or jumped overnight from viewing health care as the demise of the Obama presidency to celebrating the historic achievement; we consumers of commentary are like addicts, returning for yet another dose of which member of Congress is wavering on health care reform now.

And yet, inevitability need not require complicity. I cannot stop news outlets from covering politics as a blood sport, but I can encourage you to occasionally look for broader meaning amid the carnage. The most meaningful

questions in today's political debate are not whether Sarah Palin will run for president in 2012 or which party will dominate the midterm elections according to the latest polls. The better queries revolve around the worth of specific policy proposals or stem from in-depth consideration of long-term political trends. Daily approval ratings are not as important as legacy, nor are the former magic eight balls for predicting the latter.

Instead, seek out the commentators whose perspectives are original and meaningful rather than relying solely on those who treat the regurgitation of Washington's echo chamber platitudes as some type of public service. If you cannot break away from the constant drip of chatter, at least set aside some time to read pieces that are more reflective.

I am not some Internet-hating Luddite. I like the Internet,

not least because it gives me easy access to articles like The New York Times Magazine's take on Mike Allen. I also think blogs and their ilk are an important check against a mainstream media that has at times grown complacent.

But in the case of writing, quantity tends to decrease quality. Politico's "talking point of the day" (and scoop of the day, link of the day, joke of the day, even birthday of the day) mentality leaves insufficient room for stories and ideas that span more than a 24-hour rotation.

As college students, our news consumption is a form of self-education. As we learn, we should take care to avoid the delusion that more links equals more knowledge.

Eve is a Junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at elsambor@wustl.edu.

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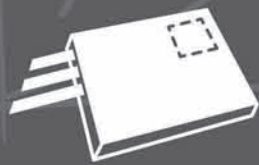


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SCENE

Union Station

A history of our national landmark

Sasha Fine
Scene Special Features Editor

Nestled within the heart of St. Louis, yet largely overlooked by both the city's residents and Washington University students, lies St. Louis' Union Station. The railroad station, formerly known as one of the pre-eminent train stations in the world, now merely houses a mall and a hotel.

The station was designed by noted architect Theodore Link, and construction on it began in the early 1890s. Work was completed in 1894, and at the time of the station's opening, it was the largest and busiest station in the world, serving over 100,000 passengers a day. During the early 20th century, it established itself as the most important train station in the Midwest, and, as a result, was a pivotal force in shaping American life

during that period. Keep in mind that this was before the construction of passenger aircraft or the interstate highway system. Railroads were the primary mode of transport across long distances.

The station itself is constructed in the High Victorian style—specifically the Romanesque Revival style—common of late 19th-century train stations. This is marked by the simple arches found within the station and the abundance of windows. Most notable is the “Allegorical Window,” a masterpiece featuring three women, corresponding to the three great train stations of the late 19th century—New York's, St. Louis', and San Francisco's.

After its completion, the station functioned as the main gateway to the West—a moniker by which St. Louis is known—for many years, processing up to 400 trains a day before and during World

War II.

After the war, however, service began to decline and continued to slide until 1961, by which time many of the tracks had been replaced with parking lots. The station gained national prominence again briefly in 1948, when Harry Truman was photographed there with the famous “Dewey Defeats Truman” Chicago Tribune headline—incorrectly referring to the results of the presidential election, in which Harry Truman defeated Thomas Dewey. Throughout this period, however, it became more and more fiscally impractical to continue to operate the station, which had very high overhead due to its large size and elaborate design.

Throughout the '60s and early '70s, minimal transportation services continued to operate out of the station, until Amtrak pulled out of the station in 1978, citing

financial reasons. Amtrak service currently operates out of the Gateway Multimodal Transportation Center.

In 1985, following a \$150 million remodeling—the largest conversion project to that date in the United States—the station reopened as a hotel, currently a Marriott, with a mall attached.

In addition to the shopping center, Union Station houses a plaza for concerts, festivals and other miscellaneous events.

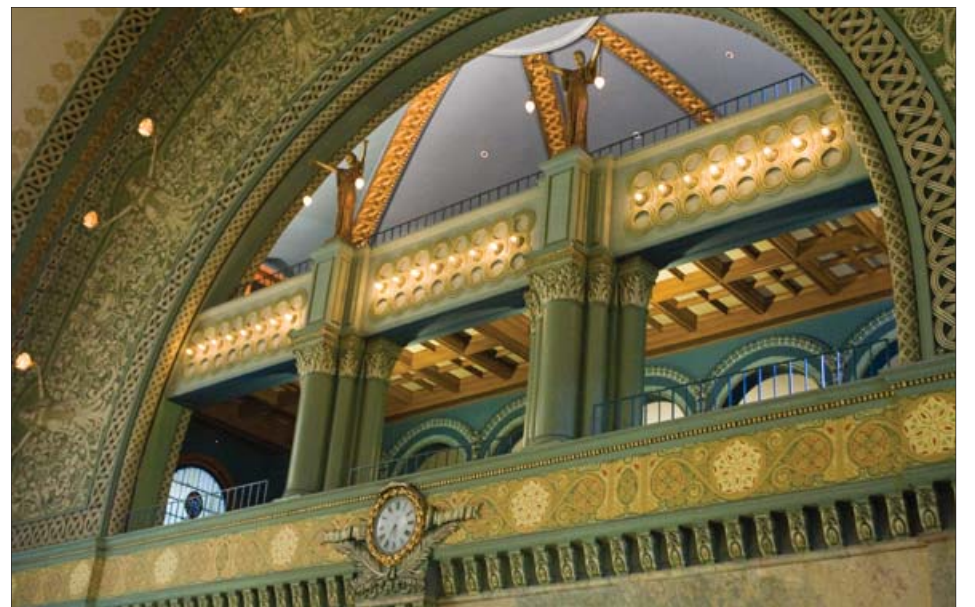
Though not the architect's intention, the shopping mall seems to have meshed well with the design of the station. A mixture of eclectic, almost art nouveau architectural trappings now lie alongside more modern storefronts. The juxtaposition seems to work, however. It is strangely reminiscent of Platform 9 3/4 from the Harry Potter films, full of dark railroad metal. At the same time, the current era leaves its mark on the station, with bright signs and restaurants like the Hard Rock Café.

The St. Louis Union Station is a remnant of past generations, when railroads were the primary form of cross-national transportation. Its historical significance is undeniable though it has greatly changed, and it remains a notable and

important location to see. I strongly encourage Wash. U. students to visit and explore the station. The Grand Hall—an arched, highly ornate lounge—is especially worth a visit.


St. Louis Union Station can be reached by light

rail or by car. If using public transportation, take the MetroLink east to Union Station and walk one block north. If driving, follow I-64 E and take exit 38C. The station is located at 1820 Market Street.



PHOTOS BY JOSH GOLDMAN | STUDENT LIFE
Construction of the main entrance (top) and Grand Hall of Union Station were completed in 1894.

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DRINK SPECIALS

SPORTS

TRACK AND FIELD

Men repeat as UAA champions; women take third

Kurt Rohrbeck
Sports Editor

While the rains from this past weekend may have thrown off the schedules of several sports and events at Washington University, the men's and women's track & field teams remained undeterred by the elements in their biggest meet of the spring season.

The men repeated as conference champions while the women's team placed third of seven schools at the 2010 University Athletic Association (UAA) Outdoor Championships last weekend, held on campus at the Bushyhead Track.

For the men, the title was the team's second in a row and its 13th in school history.

"We did a great job of just going out and competing," said head coach Jeff Stiles, commenting on the team's effort in the rough conditions. "Competitors thrive in adverse conditions, and I would certainly hope that we have a team full of competitors."

Junior Ben Harmon's 1.95 meters in the high jump won him one of the men's team's two individual championships for the day. His win in the final, which was pushed to 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, was his second UAA title in the event and first since 2008.

"I tried to get there early and warm up and be prepared. It took a couple of jumps, but it felt good," Harmon said. "It was nice to get the win."

The other individual victory on the men's side belonged to sophomore Dan Davis, whose 14.63 meters in the 110-meter hurdles put him just short of his season high of 14.61 meters and earned him the title. Right on Davis' heels, at 14.67 meters, was sophomore Tyler Jackson, who finished second.

Other strong efforts for the men's team included those of graduate student Pierre Hoppenot, who finished second in the 100-meter dash at 10.79 seconds and third in the 200-meter at 22.22 seconds, and senior Chris Malaya, who took third in the 400-meter dash in

50.79 seconds.

All of the combined efforts put the men's team ahead of second-place University of Chicago (163), with a final score of 192 points.

For the women's team, the weekend was considered a strong one by the team despite their inability to bring home the conference title. The team finished third with 134 points, behind the University of Chicago at 201.50 and Emory University at 199.50.

"We'd like to think we can always do better, but we really did a good job and pulled through," sophomore Katie Hered said. "We show a lot of promise and keep getting better."

Individual winners for the women included Hered, whose performance was highlighted by a season-best 3.45 meters in the pole vault, and sophomore Liz Phillips, who took the 800-meter run in 2:22.57.

Freshman Anne Diaz-Arrastia's 11.92 meters in the triple jump was also good enough for a first-place mark.

Junior Kelli Blake also had



Junior Jessica Londeree paces herself as she passes a runner from Greenville College.

MATT LANTER | STUDENT LIFE

a strong performance, as her 2:22.69 in the 800 put her just behind Phillips.

With the UAAs behind them, the Bears begin their final month of the season on Saturday, May 1. As they begin their final push with the

Monmouth College Meet in Monmouth, Ill., the focus for the teams is shifting toward fine-tuning their main events for NCAA Championships later in the month.

When the time comes, the Bears insist they'll be relaxed

and ready. "Once you get in the mindset that it's not your job, but that you also want to have fun, it comes a little easier," Harmon said. "Training-wise, everything just kind of focuses toward that one event, and everything falls into place."

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Seniors recognized during wet and wild Saturday

Johann Qua Hiansen
Sports Reporter

For the seniors of Washington University's softball team, the curse was reversed... kind of.

"We thought Senior Day was cursed," senior Megan Fieser said. "The past two years it's been rained out. It's just not the same without a game."

Saturday's Senior Day was supposed to be a doubleheader against Missouri Baptist University, but the second game was washed out. However, before the rain turned into a torrent, the Lady Bears picked up a 2-1 eight-inning victory, winning by the 'silliest of reasons' according to Fieser.

With Fieser on second base, classmate Ashton Hitchcock laid down a sacrifice bunt, advancing Fieser to third. Sophomore Corissa Santos and senior Ally Berenter were then intentionally walked to load the bases in the bottom of the eighth inning. "I don't know why they tried a force at home with the fastest runner on

third," Fieser said. "It's silly to walk any of our batters."

Fieser strolled across home plate as junior Claire Voris was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to win the game in extra innings. "It was a messy finish to a messy day," Voris said.

Voris gave up a solo home run to Missouri Baptist freshman Jenna Bentlage with two outs recorded in the top of the second inning. Voris also struck out 10 as she picked up her 50th career victory.

Voris then made up for her mistake by doubling to lead off the fourth inning. Senior Carter Malouf advanced Voris to third base on a fielder's choice before classmate Caitlyn Hoffman created Voris' scoring opportunity. Hoffman popped up to left field, and an error by the Spartan's catcher led to the tying run.

For the rest of the game, the teams battled rain, drying the ball after one or two pitches, and struggled to score another run due to strong pitching backed up with solid defense.

The Spartans had two potent opportunities to take the game from the Bears. The first arose in the seventh inning. A speedy Spartan tried to sneak by Malouf at home after another Spartan had singled. "Even if you're on second with two outs, you're always going home as hard as you can," Malouf said. Cait [Hoffman] was ready. I was turning and yelling for it, and she was already throwing the ball," Malouf tagged the sliding Spartan for the final out of the inning.

The second opportunity came in the eighth, with runners on second and third and just one out recorded. Voris struck out the Spartan batter and then induced a fly ball that was snagged by freshman Ashley Janssen. "You just got to stick in the moment, and just work slowly...pitch by pitch," Voris said. "You don't really think about who's where."

Prior to the game, the seniors were honored by their teammates. "[The underclassmen] really show that they love playing with us," Fieser said. "That's what's

important about senior day."

In their four years, Fieser, Malouf, Hoffman and Hitchcock have captured three University Athletic Association titles and three NCAA tournament appearances, including a trip to the College World Series in 2007. "This team will miss a lot of those 'Fabulous Four,'" Berenter said.

Berenter and Voris are competing against each other for the

'Black and Blue Award.' Amy Vukovich, who graduated in 2008, and Berenter held the record, being hit by the pitch six times in a single season. When Berenter was hit by Missouri Baptist pitcher Julie Kemp, she reclaimed her title. "We've still got some games left and I'm looking to beat it," Berenter said. "That's my one true goal I've set out this season."

hit for the game-winning run, setting the new single-season record at seven.

The Bears face the Division II University of Missouri-St. Louis in a doubleheader on Saturday, May 1, before returning home on Sunday with a doubleheader against Fontbonne University at noon.

FOR RELEASE APRIL 28, 2010

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Subway alternative

4 Floppy storage media

9 Stop by unexpectedly

14 Bruin legend Bobby

15 Apples since 1998

16 Ivory neighbor?

17 "Michael Collins" org.

18 Honda Accord, for one

19 Has a proclivity (to)

20 Blondness

22 There may not be one "in the house" during a tearjerker

23 Neural impulse junction

24 Big hairdos, for short

25 Cart for heavy loads

26 Coalition

27 Boeing product

30 County on San Francisco Bay

32 Cat's pajamas

34 "See for Miles": The Who hit

35 Houdini's family name

36 Promise in the dairy aisle

37 Like some stockings

39 Van Gogh setting

40 Word with Big or top

41 "Great" dog

42 "It's ___!": bargain hunter's words

43 Coffee holders

44 "Flying" toy

47 Captain Ahab feature

50 Fan of Jerry Garcia's band

51 Author Jong

52 "What are you gonna do about it?!"

53 Shirt size: Abbr.

54 Laid vinyl on, as a floor

55 Speak off the cuff

56 Quarterback Dawson

57 Ingress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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47	48	49					50					
51							52					53
54							55					56
57							58					59

By Pete Muller & Sue Keefer 4/28/10

58 Baffling a slob

59 Soph and jr.

DOWN

1 Elaborate dos

2 Striking spread

3 Flight of scientists to another nation, e.g.

4 Old-style kitchen washing receptacle

5 "No argument from me"

6 _____ Hawkins Day

7 1980s Chrysler product

8 Tax form ID

9 Faddish '70s toy that came in a box with air holes

10 Does as told

11 Fried Dixie bread

12 _____ 500

13 Big Board letters

21 _____ to go: psyched

22 Metallic refuse

24 Shylock's pound

26 Light brown

27 "The original gourmet" candy bean

28 Very wide, shoewise

29 General chicken: Chinese dish

30 Catcher's glove

31 Throb

32 Some '60s war protests

33 "You can get it to me later"

35 Cymbal sound

38 Like many large-screen TVs

39 Follow, as rules

42 A Musketeer

43 Stomach woe

44 Senses

45 Ready for action

46 Parades

47 Tennis's Sampras

48 Common name for an Irish lass

49 Gold-plated

50 Bro

52 Uncle on a poster

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

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
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SOLUTION TO
MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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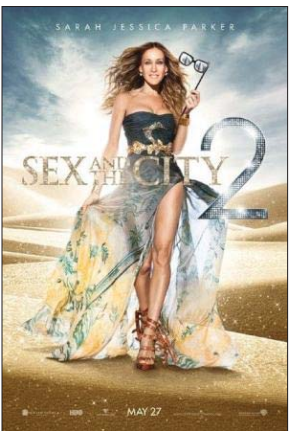
CADENZA

A PREVIEW..... SUMMER MOVIES

Cadenza Staff

The summer movie season is nearing the starting line, and it's raring to go. Some people (*cough-cough* the other half of Cadenza *cough*) think that it's more important to highlight summer's TV shows, but rest assured, they are wrong. Here's why: 1) It's a cold, hard fact that movie screens are bigger than TV screens; 2) The sounds are louder, too and 3) Look at all these cool movies that are coming out! From "Step Up 3D" to "Eat Pray Love" to "Iron Man 2," this is shaping up to be a summer movie season for the ages.

'SEX AND THE CITY 2'
Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda are back with another installment in the successful "Sex and the City" series. After the first film made the transfer to television, its success warranted a sequel. Are Big and Carrie going to stay together? Is Samantha going to find love? Why is Miley Cyrus in this movie? All of these questions and more will be answered

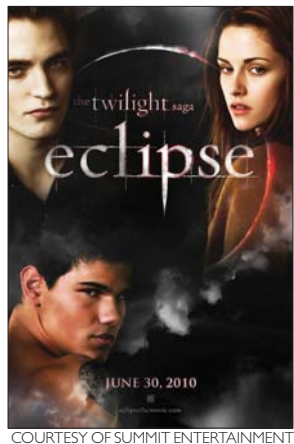


this summer. More fashion, sex, city, comedy and drama are no doubt in store for the four girls as they navigate love and life.

'THE KARATE KID'
Things aren't as simple as they were in the '80s. Hollywood doesn't do "remakes" anymore. They make

"homages" and "reboots," and this movie is definitely one of those last two. That means that Jackie Chan plays Mr. Miyagi—er, Mr. Han—and teaches Dre Parker karate—I mean, kung-fu. Things are different now, big whoop. Will Smith's son, Jaden, isn't as adorable as he was in "The Pursuit of Happyness," but he looks just as endearing. However, the trailer is a little serious for Cadenza's tastes. Hopefully director Harold Zwart can inject some fun into the final product.

'ECLIPSE'
The third installment in the massive "Twilight" phenomenon, "Eclipse," will be released this summer, featuring sudden stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner. This time around, the vampires and werewolves will have to band together to fight off an army of evil vampires who are trying to kill Bella. Even within this shaky alliance, vampire

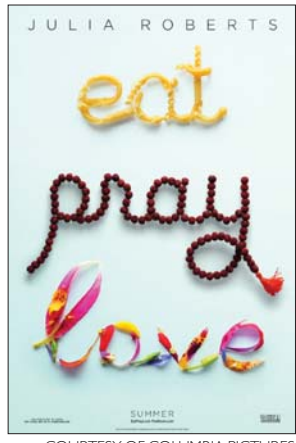


Edward and werewolf Jacob will duke it out to win Bella's heart. The romance will have teenage girls swooning and screeching to the box office all summer (and Taylor's countless shirtless scenes probably won't hurt either).

'THE A-TEAM'
They're back! But it's been 24 years since the show ended, so why now? There's a question of relevancy, but there's also a counter-argument, because everyone

knows about the A-Team (if not directly, then tangentially through hummed theme songs or conversations after 1-800-COLLECT commercials). For better or for worse, the show has been implanted into our social conscious, and the movie will surely capitalize on that. Sure, there's the fear that it could end up being the next "G.I. Joe," but remember, it could just as easily be the next "Star Trek," too.

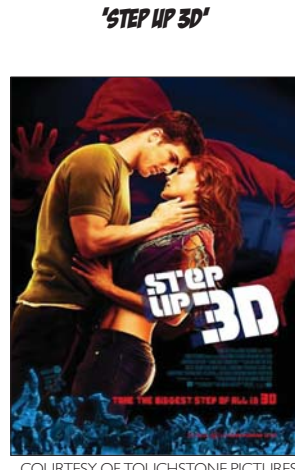
'EAT PRAY LOVE'
Based on the best-selling book, "Eat Pray Love" follows a recent divorcée, Elizabeth Gilbert (played by Julia Roberts), as she decides



that she needs to change her life. After her divorce, Elizabeth decides to travel the world, living for months in Italy, India and Bali, trying to find what her life was missing. As if Roberts and exotic locations aren't enough, "Eat Pray Love" is directed by "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy and produced by Brad Pitt.

'INCEPTION'
Following his successful turn in "Shutter Island," Leonardo DiCaprio will be starring in yet another sci-fi thriller, "Inception." Directed by Christopher Nolan (who directed "The Dark Knight"), "Inception" follows an agent who can give people drugs in order to venture into their minds, steal their secrets and sell them to the highest bidder.

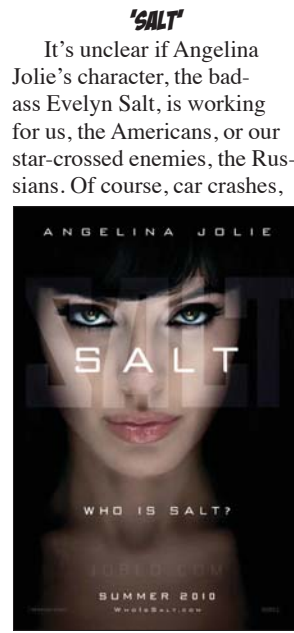
While this certainly seems like an ingenious business scheme, there is no question that things will take a turn for the worst, as the mind is not something you would want to mess with. Trippy and thrilling, "Inception" will have you on the edge of your seat.



The successful and entertaining dance series, "Step Up," is going to release its third film, and this one will be in 3-D! "Step Up 3D" will be released this summer and will star "Moose" from "Step Up 2: The Streets" and Camille Gage from the original "Step Up" (she played Channing Tatum's sister). Speaking of Tatum, the actor, who launched the series, will also appear in the third film. With hip-hop and dancing galore, "Step Up 3D" will for sure be one of my favorite movies this summer.

'IRON MAN 2'
After battling for sobriety, Robert Downey Jr. began his comeback with a splash in 2008's "Iron Man." What hasn't yet been said about his fantastic turn as Tony Stark? His witticisms were perfect for the role, bringing a sense of comedic timing to a funny flick. And no, "Iron Man" wasn't "funny for a superhero movie"; it was genuinely funny, clever and any number of superlatives. Gwyneth Paltrow's game of push-and-pull with Downey could fill a rom-com on its own. Mickey Rourke and Scarlett Johansson

will fit into the sequel nicely, but let's not kid ourselves. The new movie is, and always has been, about Robert Downey Jr. His renaissance continues.



gun fights and explosions are all but guaranteed in this thrill ride, but if director Phillip Noyce knows what's good for him, he'll raid Paul Greengrass' (director of the last two "Bourne" movies) diary for tips on getting an action movie to marry a thoughtful story. We'll see how Greengrass' vision pans out when the movie is released in late July. Until then, we must ask ourselves, "Who is Salt?"

'ROBIN HOOD'
Russell Crowe. Ridley Scott. Put them in the same sentence, and "Gladiator" fans tend to sweat and roar in excitement. But what should we expect from this new exploration into the legendary figure of Robin Hood? There hasn't been a serious movie on the well-meaning thief, his merry men or his tights in years. It's not likely that Crowe's Hood will have many cheery companions anyway. Think "Kingdom of Heaven," and expect something epic with a deep message. Under the right guidance, this could be a very good thing.

..... SUMMER TV

Summer's coming up pretty soon, and sure, there are some really awesome movies and trips to the beach in store as well. But as awesome as all those experiences will be, they all require expendable cash. Unfortunately, that's not always available. Luckily, there's always TV, which merely requires you to press a button. It's so easy! Here are some of the highlights (note: all times are in Eastern time, because that's where some of our authors live).

'THE BACHELORETTE'
(ABC, premiering 5/24, Mondays at 8 p.m.)
This season stars Ali Fedotowsky, a contestant from "The Bachelor's" last season, who quit her quest for Jake Pavelka's heart in order to keep her job at Google. So somehow, going on "The Bachelorette" will be a good career move. Oh, well. This move is just about as logical as the show itself, which pits 25 guys against each other in the quest for Ali's heart. This show promises romance, travel and suspense as to who will end up engaged by the season's end. Plus, there will be a glimpse of pre-erupted-volcano Iceland, which will probably be the most exciting thing after all.

'SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE'
(FOX, premiering 5/27, and airing on Wednesdays/Thursdays, though schedules can be variable)
The seventh season of this

dance show is going through a lot of changes. Instead of having a top 20 comprised of 10 couples, there will be a top 12 dancing with 12 "all-star" contestants from previous seasons. Although this will eliminate the possibility of amazing pairs, it means only one of your favorites will be voted out every week. Sounds like quite a promising option, even for those who can't move to a beat!



'PERSONS UNKNOWN'
(NBC, premiering 6/7, Mondays at 10 p.m.)
This is a new mystery drama about people who have to "solve the puzzles of their lives." Yes, that phrase was in the press release. I don't actually know what it's about, but that line alone was enough to sell me. Plus, it stars Alan Ruck, better known as Cameron from "Feris Bueller's Day Off." But hopefully in this new show, he won't spend most of his time freaking out about his dad's car...

'TRUE BLOOD'
(HBO, premiering 6/13, Sundays)
After capitalizing on the

vampire phenomenon two years ago, "True Blood" is returning to HBO this summer for more sexy, violent vampire drama. The series chronicles Sookie Stackhouse as she dates a "reformed" vampire who tries his hardest to resist feeding on humans. By herself, she isn't completely powerless, as she is able to resist many of the vampires' powers and read others' minds. When the new season returns, we are guaranteed to learn just what happened to Sookie, who mysteriously disappeared just as her vampire boyfriend Bill Compton was proposing to her.



'THE REAL L WORD'
(Showtime, premiering 6/20, Sundays)
After successfully running the series "The L Word"—a show about a group of lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends in Los Angeles—Showtime is returning with "The Real L Word." This reality show will follow a group of lesbians in LA as they live their lives. Without a doubt, the reality show will be just as dramatic and engrossing as its fictional counterpart.

'ENTOURAGE'
(HBO, premiering 6/27, Sundays)
"Entourage's" seventh season opens with Vince back from Rome, now shooting an apocalyptic movie, hopefully one that's more "The Day After Tomorrow" and less "2012" (or maybe that's just us?). Anyway, fans will get to deal with Eric and Sloan's engagement, as well as lots of goodness from Drama and Turtle. Also, Lloyd's now an agent, which is pretty much reason enough to watch the show, right? Hopefully! Tune in on June 27 to see.

'HAVEN'
(Syfy, premiering 7/9, Fridays at 10 p.m.)
This new show from Syfy brings an FBI agent (an attractive female, of course) to a small Maine town to solve a murder. Of course, that plot is way too simplistic, so this FBI agent learns that this town is a haven for people with supernatural abilities. Sounds interesting. I'm wondering if it will be more about the residents or the agent. I'm hoping it's the residents, because I lost a lot of supernatural friends when "Heroes" decided to suck. Also, I met the actress playing the FBI agent a couple of summers ago (Emily Rose of "Jericho" and "John From Cincinnati"), and she was just mean.

'MAD MEN'
(AMC, premiering 7/25, Sundays at 10 p.m.)

The end of "Mad Men's" third season brought about a total shake-up that will completely



destroy the status quo: the creation of Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, a new advertising agency that will employ Pete, Peggy, Joan and Harry. Don and Betty started preparing for a divorce, and many other awesome things happened. The third season's finale alone was enough to get me to want to watch season four of "Mad Men," and the fact that it is such a good show otherwise just makes this so much better.

'THE LEAGUE'
(FX, will air late summer, details TBA)
Pete and his friends have problems. One friend's wife leaves him, and the wives who stay are withholding sex; they can't get jobs, and even the one with a great job gets no respect; and their kids drive them nuts. For these early-30s lost boys, the last refuge from the real world is their fantasy football league. Fantasy fans will immediately identify with the league's hyper-aggression, backstabbing and genuine line-up

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paranoia (although maybe not
with kidnapping a child guru
for draft advice or trying to get a
good-luck testicular exam from
another league member's doctor
girlfriend), but fantasy football
is only the backdrop for this
delightfully twisted little comedy.
After all, dressing up your stoner
brother as an annoying Tickle-
Me-Elmo-esque doll with a knife
to scare your child into never
wanting to play with it again



'THE BIG C'
(Showtime, premiering 8/16,
Mondays at 10:30 p.m.)
This show is billed as a dark
comedy, and it stars Laura Linney.
From that, it seems pretty
promising. And then you find out
why it's a dark comedy—Laura
Linney stars as a wife, mother
and teacher who, oh yeah,
also has terminal cancer. That
seems...really funny? I'm interested
at least to see how tactful
this show is, or if it is just really
disturbing. I cannot decide which
would excite me more.

(SPOILER ALERT: it goes horri-
bly, criminally wrong) is comedy
we can all appreciate.

