



127 HOURS REVIEW  
CADENZA, PAGE 6



RICHTER PROFILE  
SPORTS, PAGE 7



FOOD FOR THOUGHT  
SCENE, PAGE 8

# Student Life

the independent newspaper of Washington University in St. Louis since 1878

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## Undergrads experience life on Capitol Hill with new D.C. program

LAUREN OLENS  
NEWS EDITOR

Washington University students have taken the nation's capital by storm as part of a new University program.

The Semester in D.C. Program was introduced this fall to undergraduates, building upon the successful Administrative and Congressional Law Clinic, which has offered third-year law students the opportunity to work for a member of Congress since

1977.

Currently, 11 law students and six undergraduates are spending the semester in D.C. Twenty law students and about eight undergraduates will participate in the program this spring, and there will also be a summer program.

"This experience has given me a different perspective on politics because instead of reading about policy-making in textbooks, we see it happen in the House and Senate chambers and in our offices," said junior Ashli Hessel,

a program participant.

The new undergraduate program centers on a four day per week, six credit internship, a colloquium class, and a three credit elective course taught at the University of California Washington Center (UCDC).

Core classes are taught by the UCDC faculty, which features professors from the University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, UC Berkeley and

SEE D.C., PAGE 3



COURTESY OF ASHLI HESSEL

Junior Ashli Hessel poses in front of the Capitol. Hessel is one of six undergraduates in the Washington University Semester in D.C. Program. The unique learning experience consists of an internship, a core class, a colloquium class and field trips designed to immerse students in the culture of Washington, D.C.

## Administration-backed program turns to Treasury for funding

BECKY PRAGER  
STAFF REPORTER

Student Union Treasury recently voted to fund an appeal for \$6,041.64 for a new training program for sexual assault and violence prevention.

The appeal was made by Men Organized for Rape Education (MORE) to bring the Green Dot Initiative to campus.

The plan for the initiative came from Kim Webb, the school's sexual assault prevention coordinator.

According to David Cohen, former speaker of the Treasury and current vice president of administration, the appropriate source of funding for the program is from Webb's office in Student Health Services (SHS). Cohen said that recent SHS budget cuts meant that funding needed to come from elsewhere.

"I think it's debatable whether or not Treasury should be paying for it," Cohen said. "But SHS just doesn't have the money for it. Taking money from SHS right now means taking money from EST, mental health services—things students really need."

Created by Dorothy Edwards of the University of Kentucky, the Green Dot Initiative is a strategy designed to promote social change by recognizing all members of the community as bystanders to violence and sexual assault, placing on them the

obligation to intervene.

SHS is funding training for faculty leaders, but Webb presented an appeal to SU in order to fund training for student leaders as well as promotional materials.

"We were fortunate to have the money and the flexibility for it," DeBaun said.

However, DeBaun said that Webb—who was appointed to her position last March after a lengthy search—was confused about the appeals process and largely has been out of touch with the student population. Webb's office is in SHS instead of in the student-friendly DUC, and DeBaun said that when she met with Webb before the mid-November appeal, Webb had yet to introduce herself to leaders in key student groups such as the Interfraternity Council, the Women's Panhellenic Association and SU itself.

Webb was absent from the Treasury meeting where the appeal was made. Instead, MORE president Zach Meyer read a statement that she had drafted.

In spite of the contention over Webb's appeal for the program, SU leaders, in the end, felt that the initiative was worth funding.

"We had to ask, 'does Treasury support this effort?' The answer was yes," said junior Cody Katz, vice president of public relations.

The issue, according to DeBaun, is complicated by the fact that MORE is a student group—and that the initiative is, by definition, a set of coordinated efforts from the faculty, administration and student groups.

"The thing is, we would have wanted to support MORE on this even if [Webb] wasn't involved," she said.

Included in the appeal was \$1,000 to purchase T-shirts in order to market the program.

The vote was split so that the vote on the T-shirts was separate from the rest of the program.

As a general principle specified in Treasury's Constitution, funding is not granted for promotional materials for student groups—including T-shirts. Treasury employed this principle in denying Dance Marathon's appeal for T-shirts earlier in the year.

The Green Dot Initiative shirts, however, were considered to be an integral part of the program and were funded.

"While there were some treasurers who felt it was not appropriate to fund the shirts, the majority felt that this was a central part of the initiative," Cohen said. "It's essential to this being successful."

According to Cohen, exceptions to T-shirt funding have been made in

SEE FUNDING, PAGE 2

## WU employees may lose assistance for grad. courses

*Expiration of tax code would turn assistance into taxable income*

HALEY CEN  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

A change in the federal tax code may impede Washington University faculty and staff from taking graduate courses.

The University provides tuition assistance to encourage employees to pursue continuing education opportunities. Though some employees choose to take job-related courses, more of them favor other courses. Under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), which is set to expire on Dec. 31, the University can offer \$5,250 of tax-free tuition assistance for these courses.

If the code is not renewed, however, all tuition assistance for non-job-related education would be taxable, which may influence employees' decisions to enroll in graduate courses.

A number of Washington University faculty are currently taking non-job-related classes or even pursuing degree programs.

Jami Ake, a senior lecturer and assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, is graduating this winter from the Geroge Warren Brown School of Social Work with a master's degree. Ake will be instructing undergraduate courses on Women and Gender Studies next semester, as she has done for several years, and she is also the adviser for S.A.R.A.H (Sexual Assault & Rape Anonymous Hotline).

Though the graduate courses she has been taking are not

considered job-related, Ake strongly believes that her concentration on violence against women in her master's program will strengthen her teaching and advising.

"I can help my students see what it's like in other graduate schools and give them vision for community organizing and programming," Ake said.

Besides Ake, many University faculty members have also pursued professional degrees in other programs, such as the Master of Business Administration in the business school.

The change in the IRC is expected to affect Washington University staff members to a greater degree than it will affect faculty members.

"There could be University College students impacted by this issue," said Brent Jenson, the director of administration in University College. "And we have notified them of the change."

Staff members have a lower average income and usually have less flexible schedules than faculty.

Since the change is not effective until the next calendar year, neither the Department of Human Resources nor University College know how much employees will be discouraged from taking graduate courses.

The changes in funding are not going to impact the tuition assistance for job-related or undergraduate courses.

Additionally, the payroll department will spread taxation of the tuition assistance money over multiple pay periods to help individuals better cover the added cost.

Write to Haley Cen at  
HALEY.CEN@STUDLIFE.COM

## GEC has yet to appoint advisor

WEI-YIN KO  
STAFF REPORTER

The Green Events Commission (GEC) is operating without an Executive Advisor for Sustainability (EAS), who is required by the GEC's constitution and a Student Union executive order.

According to the GEC website, the group's goal is "to provide student groups with pragmatic suggestions for minimizing the waste of resources, whether these resources come in the form of food, paper or even wattage."

Former SU president Jeff Nelson filed an executive order for the GEC to nominate a student advisor for the commission when the GEC was chartered in Aug. 2009.

The EAS is supposed to help direct the GEC's agenda and coordinate activities and initiatives with other parts of SU and the Washington University campus.

"The main reason we don't have [an EAS] right now is because we couldn't identify a sufficiently qualified candidate," said junior Emily Averna,

co-chair of the GEC. "We'd like to see someone who has knowledge of sustainability and also a really good working knowledge of Student Union."

Averna added, "We anticipate that an EAS will be appointed once the next exec board is elected. He or she would be appointed by the new student body president in early March and begin fulfilling duties in fall 2011."

Averna did not think that the lack of an EAS, whose job is to communicate with the rest of the Student Union, obstructed the GEC's activities this semester.

"There is synergy between GEC and the rest of Student Union right now, and the lack of an EAS did not impede our progress this semester," Averna said. "In future semesters, it will be important to have one."

Neither Averna nor SU President junior Morgan DeBaun anticipate any penalties for the absence of an EAS.

Junior Justin Taylor, chief justice of the Constitutional Council, explained the actions that could

SEE GEC, PAGE 3

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# the flipside

## WEATHER FORECAST

### FRIDAY 3

MOSTLY CLOUDY  
45 / 34



### SATURDAY 4

MOSTLY CLOUDY  
43 / 26



### SUNDAY 5

MOSTLY SUNNY  
36 / 20



## POLICE BEAT

- Wednesday, December 1  
At 11:37 a.m., Bank of America in Mallinckrodt reported receiving a counterfeit bill in a deposit. The bill was turned over to the Secret Service, and the disposition is under investigation.
- Wednesday, December 1  
At 2:41 p.m. a woman reported the theft of her wallet in McDonnell Hall and subsequent fraudulent use of a credit cards. The disposition is pending.
- Thursday, December 2  
At 5:37 a.m. Aramark reported that a large mirror was pulled from the wall and shattered on the floor of the men's bathroom in Cupples 1. The disposition is pending.

## FUNDING FROM PAGE 1

the past when deemed necessary, such as when WUPD told Dance Marathon a few years ago that T-shirts would be necessary for security reasons.

The program advocates against participating in "high risk" behaviors or activities that promote violence against women, and encourages those that are more "low risk."

MORE and the Committee Organizing Rape Education will be providing a one-day training session for student leaders.

Webb will be doing a four-day training session with faculty leaders, including residential college directors, student group faculty advisors and faculty fellows.

Write to Becky Prager at BECKY.PRAGER@STUDLIFE.COM

## EVENT CALENDAR

### FRIDAY 3

**Living in Momentum**  
Edison Theatre, 8 p.m. (also Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.)  
Washington University Dance Theatre presents a showcase of creative and diverse contemporary dance works professionally choreographed by resident and guest choreographers and performed by Wash. U. student dancers.

**Mr. Stereotype MMX**  
May Auditorium, Olin Business School 8 p.m. (also Saturday at 8 p.m.)  
Don't miss your chance to see Wash. U.'s only all-male a cappella pageant! The Stereotypes will be competing in

different events throughout the concert, hoping to win your vote for the crown of Mr. Stereotype.

### SATURDAY 4

**Be Our Guest! Aristocats A Cappella Concert**  
Ursa's Fireside, 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
Come see Wash. U.'s premiere Disney a cappella group, The Aristocats, perform in their first ever Winter Concert! Admission is free, so come out for a night of Disney magic.

**Women's Basketball 10<sup>th</sup> Annual McWilliams Classic**  
Athletic Complex, 2 p.m. (Consolation game) and 6 p.m. (Championship game)  
Support the Lady Bears as they dominate on the court!

**Men's Basketball 27<sup>th</sup> Lopata Classic**  
Athletic Complex, 8 p.m.  
Come watch the Bears take on Claremont-Mudd-Scripps!

### SUNDAY 5

**Messiah Sing-Along**  
Graham Chapel, 3 p.m.  
The Department of Music will present its annual sing-along of George Frideric Handel's oratorio Messiah in Graham Chapel. John Stewart, director of vocal activities, will direct the program. The performance will include the Christmas portion of Messiah as well as the "Hallelujah Chorus."

## World AIDS Day



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH RILEY

Members of the Washington University community made a red ribbon on Mudd Field on Monday to raise awareness for the world AIDS epidemic. The event was part of World AIDS Day.

Student Life presents a guide to places of worship in the Wash U Community

# religious directory

**Third Baptist Church**  
In the City for Good!  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:40am  
620 N. Grand Blvd. www.third-baptist.org  
(314) 369-3238  
Call for transportation or info.

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Van Service from Shepley Drive at the Clock Tower 10:10 a.m.  
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Pre-service Praise & Coffee 10:00 a.m.  
Worship in the Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

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## GEC FROM PAGE 1

be taken if one finds fault with the lack of an EAS.

"The most obvious thing you can do is to file an interpretation request with the Constitutional Council; we'll take up the case," Taylor said. "If you can show that A, the constitution is not followed, and B, there is harm done because of that, you can submit a petition to us, and we'll review it."

According to DeBaun, "If [anyone] filed a grievance, they could come to Justin Taylor and [the Constitutional Council] can determine if I had acted constitutionally. I've been pretty transparent about it. I've told Senate and Treasury what's going on."

There are two types of requests that can be filed.

"An interpretation request is a request which we review and make up a rule, which is binding," Taylor said. "A grievance request would potentially remove someone from office."

As for the grievance request, only the Student Union president would be affected.

"If you would like to remove [the SU president] from office, file a grievance request," Taylor said. "I don't know if you can punish the GEC for not having an [EAS], when they don't have the power to get one."

So far, no requests have been filed.

The GEC is an executive commission of SU. It is comprised of 16 students including two co-chairs, a public relations chair and liaison teams.

The commission plans to meet with SU senators, treasurers and current SU executives to develop effective strategies for implementing sustainable practices on campus.

Write to Wei-Yin Ko at WEI-YIN.KO@STUDLIFE.COM

## D.C. FROM PAGE 1

UC Merced.

The program is designed to immerse students in the D.C. culture and offers smaller seminar classes for a unique learning experience.

When the program was announced, the University emphasized the importance of integrating the program's environment into its learning experience, and according to students, that goal has been met.

"I would say the best part of the program is just the city itself," Hessel said. "You're in the midst of Embassy Row, so it's definitely vibrant and there's a lot to do."

The program has coordinated explorations of the D.C. area through field trips to hockey games, the theater and local museums.

"They definitely do try to make the city a resource for us," Hessel said.

The mix of undergraduate and law students has been beneficial. All of the students take the core class together, which is taught by Professor Steven Jackson, the director of Washington University Programs in D.C.

"It's been terrific," Jackson said.

Since both law students and undergraduate students have different backgrounds, they add to different parts of the class, increasing the collective knowledge.

"There are times when we're talking about legal issues and the law students bring to bear what they know, and there are times we're talking about political science," Jackson said.

Hessel, who is pre-law, has enjoyed having classes with the law students.

"It's been helpful to hear the law students' perspectives on law school and

the admissions process," Hessel said.

Jackson said that the one difficulty the program's students face is balancing internships and class work.

"I think everyone's found it demanding, and they're all in it together," Jackson said. "It's a lot of work, a lot of time."

To make the class a little easier for students, Jackson decided to make the core class more flexible.

"I've used my flexibility in managing the core class to sometimes make it a little lighter when it was heavy in other things...and I think we've gotten pretty close to the right balance," Jackson said.

As part of the program, the students write a 30-page research paper on a part of legislation relating to their internships.

"This has helped me discover resources to use for legislative research and become more familiar with the policy-making process," Hessel said. "Because I work in a congressional office, I have access to reading rooms in the Library of Congress, so that's been a useful perk."

Overall, Hessel is pleased with her choice to participate.

"Because I'm a political science major, the reason I really wanted to come to D.C. was to learn about the political process first-hand and it does come alive here," Hessel said.

Write to Lauren Olen at LAUREN.OLENS@STUDLIFE.COM

## Student Union elects new legislative leaders

ALAN LIU  
NEWS EDITOR

Student Union Treasury elected three new leaders in competitive elections.

### Treasury

**Speaker:**  
Jasmine Berg

**Budget Committee Chair:**  
Jacob Trunsky

**Student Group Activities Committee:**  
Jarius Anderson-Baylor

Mamatha Challa was reelected as Speaker of the Senate, while three other Senators are new to their posts. The Academic Affairs Chair was the only competitive election.

### Senate

**Speaker:**  
Mamatha Challa

**Academic Affairs Chair:**  
Joseph Marcus

**Campus Services Committee:**  
Dan Robinson

**University Initiatives Chair:**  
Josh Aiken



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**Evan William's Honey Liqueur** \$11.78  
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# forum

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# TFA: Don't hit reply for the wrong reasons

### The issue

This semester, Teach for America (TFA) has employed a set of aggressive recruiting tactics for Washington University seniors.

Students complain that they have received multiple emails from TFA after having indicated a lack of interest. Many of these emails are personalized, pointing to individual student achievements.

Mark Smith, director of the Career Center, said that the Career Center treats TFA as they would any other high-profile employer—Smith compares TFA to Deloitte, McKinsey and Goldman Sachs in its provision of interview spaces and recruitment postings on CareerLink. Smith said that the recruiting tactics are, for the organization, a result of the palpable need for high-caliber talent in American education.

"They like you guys," Smith said. "Wash. U., Harvard, Yale—these are target schools for the organization. They want more of you."

Nationally, TFA is an incredibly successful organization. In 20 years, it has grown

rapidly to 28,000 teachers, or "corps members." In the past three years, its operating budget has more than doubled, to a whopping \$189 million.

While many praise the organization's efforts to boost achievement, it also has a large number of fierce critics. School districts in large cities—notably Charlotte and Boston—have laid off experienced teachers in favor of TFA corps members. The organization is criticized for its corps members—who, like us, often come from high-caliber universities and privileged backgrounds—and who often leave the teaching profession after their two-year service.

### Our take

The aggressive emails from Teach for America are the organization's doing and have nothing to do with a Washington University endorsement. We do not think that the University should do anything differently in its treatment of TFA.

However, we wonder if TFA's recruiting practices, including the emails, unwisely

target and attract students who are not sufficiently invested in the goal of eliminating educational inequality. Slogans such as "This could be the best career decision you make" portray TFA as a resume-builder and may attract students who are more interested in the truncated nature of the assignment than in the overarching goal.

Employees of the Career Center and Arts & Sciences advisers have referred to TFA as a "transitional program." We feel that this label is problematic, and we urge our peers to be aware and analytical when considering applying to Teach for America.

TFA is not a Rhodes or a Marshall. It is a real, decided commitment to a classroom full of students. Yes, the program lasts two years. But we urge students to pursue it only if they have a genuine commitment to education and feel prepared for the challenges of teaching in an under-served school.

### Moving forward

We would like to point out to TFA recruiters on campus that their aggressive

tactics, when coupled with TFA marketing materials, can make the organization seem glossy and corporate. It can also make it seem like they are marketing it as a good stepping stone to a lucrative career at places like Goldman Sachs (which looks favorably upon the organization, and has partnered with TFA to allow recent graduates to defer their job offers to become corps members for two years).

We question whether nonstop emails and well-designed brochures are truly effective means of recruiting dedicated teachers. We also wonder if marketing itself as a transitional program is the message that an organization that aims to genuinely remedy the problems of educational inequality ought to be sending.

*Editor's note: Perry Stein is a member of the Student Life editorial board and a Teach for America undergraduate recruiter. She has recused herself from the discussion and writing of this editorial.*

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



KATE OBERG | STUDENT LIFE

# A little love for the Fed, a little hate on the blowhards

CHARLIE LOW  
FORUM EDITOR

The Fed has recently come under intense scrutiny after it was pressured to release documents detailing where the \$3.3 trillion it issued in loans went. The list of recipients was mostly what one would expect, some of what one wouldn't. Major financial organizations like Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and JPMorgan received billions in short term loans. So did the financial arms of stalwart companies like General Electric and Verizon. What's the big deal? Nothing really, at this point. The amount of times these companies went to the Fed for loans and the dollar amounts are certainly startling, but they've been almost entirely paid back, along with the

payments on interest that the Fed was courteous enough to set at a crazy low rate.

So why did Senator Bernie Sanders blast the Fed on CNN's "Parker Spitzer"? For one, massive loans were dolled out to foreign banks such as UBS and BNP Paribas. Yeah, it's a bit questionable for our central bank to give essentially free money to foreign banks, but in this day and age, the entire world's financial system is intertwined. And let's not forget that these major European players were heavily involved in U.S. markets. Their collapse would have been potentially as dangerous as an American bank's. The second potential quail with the Fed's lending is that those on Wall Street may have profited from loans. Take a step back here: Let's truly analyze the problem with "profit."

First, we have to acknowledge that Wall Street is filled with a ton of really smart people who could find a way to profit off of the recycling of human feces if they really wanted to. Second, the profits came off of funds and investors betting on the success of federal government intervention! So sorry for hoping that the government's plan to revive the economy succeeds.

Senator Sanders did his best to defend the little guy. His complaints about the Fed's behavior also include the fact that "small businesses in Vermont and all over this country can't get affordable loans in order to create jobs." Well Mr. Senator, put yourself in a hypothetical situation here. Assume that the Fed didn't bail out the banks and our entire financial system collapsed. Credit markets froze and bank assets

became worthless, but the corner store in Montpelier got a small government loan. How in the hell does that help us? There's no money left in the economy, no credit for Vermonters to buy their maple syrup, definitely still no loans to create jobs, because a loan infrastructure doesn't exist anymore, due to the fact that the big banks that make up most of our financial system are now defunct. Clearly this leaves the country better off.

No one is perfect. Could the Fed have regulated where their loans were going? Perhaps, but my guess is that the c-suite at these firms had a much better idea of how the money could be used to save their floundering company than government officials did. While Wall Street has a reputation for being greedy, I doubt

SEE FED, PAGE 5

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The publications that you mention in your Dec. 1 article ("St. Louis ranked again as most dangerous city") and editorial ("St. Louis: Most dangerous, but still our city") did indeed report St. Louis to have the nation's highest crime rate, and they also failed to explain this rather odd finding.

So just how did St. Louis get to be so dangerous?

The short answer is that it didn't. Like many American cities, St. Louis has inner city neighborhoods with high crime rates surrounded by areas with lower crime rates, making up a metropolitan area. The locations of the boundaries of city proper within these metro areas vary widely, reflecting accidents of local history. St. Louis just happens to have one of the country's smallest city areas compared to its whole metro area. So the crime "rankings" aren't really rankings at all; they are just the meaningless numbers that you get when you compare, for instance, crime in St. Louis's inner city to crime in Memphis's inner city and suburbs. Your article discussed crime around the campus, but actually the campus area was mostly excluded in these rankings because it is in University City and Clayton.

Why do publications use crime rates for cities instead of metro areas? They are easier to calculate and understand. Their aim is to sell copies, not to shed light on social phenomena. Metro areas may be messy to analyze; look at Miami, New York and the San Francisco Bay Area. But in most cases the standard metropolitan statistical areas are recognizable cities, and can be easily analyzed by anyone with a spreadsheet. Wikipedia and other sources provide the latest FBI crime stats along with city and metro populations. Dump the data into a spreadsheet and you will see the following:

With a population of 355,208, the city of St. Louis is no. 52 in the country. But the metro area population of 2,828,990 ranks no. 18. Do the math: St. Louis city only includes 13 percent of the metro population, located in the relatively high-crime inner core. Comparably sized cities include New Orleans, where the city includes 28 percent of the metro area; Raleigh, where the figure is 36 percent; Tulsa at 41 percent and Wichita with 60 percent. No wonder "St. Louis" city ranks high in crime.

Is the St. Louis metro area also the most crime-ridden in America? No, that would be Detroit. Maybe we are no. 2? No, that's Pine Bluff, Arkansas. No. 3 maybe? Nope, Memphis. Where does St. Louis metro rank? In the 2010 metro crime rankings St. Louis is listed as "N/A," but in 2009 it was no. 103.

That's right, not even in the top 100.

Sincerely,

Glenn Davis Stone

Prof. of Anthropology and Environmental Studies

## The leaks speak again



HANNA XU STUDENT LIFE

SOPHIE ADELMAN  
STAFF COLUMNIST

So the word's out...again. Last week, while the student population blithely tucked in to another slab of pumpkin pie or slept off our tryptophan-induced comas, the diplomatic community was in a state of emergency. Again. For on Nov. 22, Julian Assange and his team of carefully trained Internet minions released a form of controlled chaos on the web: a quarter-million US diplomatic cables from 1966 to the present day.

The results, shall we say, weren't pretty. The leaks covered everything from nuclear dealings with Pakistan to proposals for a unified Korea and the fate of Guantanamo's detainees. These revelations have been accompanied by a mixture of outrage and weary resignation that feels all too familiar from the days of the Afghanistan war documents in July. It's yet another ugly scar on the already pockmarked complexion of America's international reputation.

But the latest in leaks leaves us wondering: If loose lips once sunk ships, what can a click of the mouse do to entire diplomatic networks? In his time as the face of WikiLeaks, the flaxen-haired Assange has been denounced and deified. He has been condemned as a megalomaniac with a nasty habit of putting the very real lives that exist outside of a paper trail in danger. But he has also been hailed as a whistleblower who fights for transparency and truth.

The issue of transparency is brought up a lot in modern American politics. We hold our elected officials responsible for everything, from the superficial to the significant, from marital conduct to corporate corruption. But we have become reckless in our quest for truth and the ensuing collision with endlessly expanding cyberspace. This year has been marked by a cry for accountability—for the economy, for the war, for a general lack of action. At this point, we might as well make like the Bible and send a bleating scapegoat out into the wilds to pardon us for our sins. It would

certainly be a lot easier.

Yet what WikiLeaks represents is not accountability in the right light. Instead, this latest influx of information has cast a harsh mirror on our zeal for scandal, to the point where our international relationships could be irreparably damaged—not to mention the thousands of diplomatic associates and informants whose lives are now at risk.

In this age of technology, it is easy to gaze at the warm, anonymous glow of a computer screen and see what we wish to see in flickering black and white. But it has also been equally easy to dismiss the responsibilities of such free disclosure. So in our pursuit of accountability, we should remember a few things: The truth has always been murky and the lines have always been gray. But that doesn't mean that there aren't any to cross.

Sophie Adelman is a senior in Arts and Sciences. Write to Sophie at [SOPHIE.ADELMAN@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:SOPHIE.ADELMAN@STUDLIFE.COM)

## Where's John Wayne?

JUSTIN GOAD  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Right when you think things can't get worse, they do. The politicians are on a mission to make sure nothing gets done until we have a different president, the world struggles to deal with acts of terrorism that cripple entire countries and the bad guys seem to have gotten worse and just won't go away. Well guess what, we can't blame it all on the economy! So what do all these plagues have in common? Respect.

I thought about the crazy things going on in the world the other day. I'm not just talking about my daily routine of demanding professors, or my prima donna co-workers, but the big topics that really worry the world. Things are really getting out of hand. From our military's time in Afghanistan surpassing that of the Russian invasion, to the North and South Koreans fighting each other...again, to the mass killings over drugs south of our border, what is humanity to do? I didn't really come up with any great solutions on my own so I went to seek some advice from the Bunny. You know, the one next to the bookstore, he looks like he has time to think. I expressed my worries, and I know the rabbit listened. I

could tell. He just sat there mulling over his thoughts, but said nothing. Then it came to me, John Wayne. You know, the Duke, now that's the ticket! John Wayne never knew how to be politically correct, and if you told him what it was to be politically correct, he'd probably tell you to shut up and get out of his way.

See John Wayne never put up with garbage; he beat up the bad guy, rescued the pretty girl and led the soldiers to victory. He knew right from wrong. So why isn't there a John Wayne anymore? Why can't someone go up to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and say, "Hey guy, get your head on straight or else." Someone who could sort of make a world tour of it. Drop by China and tell them to keep their little dog Kim Jong Il under control or they're going to have to smack him around a little, and then find Osama Bin Laden and the other bad guys and throw them all in jail.

Now see, John Wayne wasn't always about violence, he tried diplomacy first; it just didn't work very well. See, the Duke believed that you can't always just be nice and turn the other cheek. There was always a price to pay for ignorance, a concept we seem to have forgotten. In his deep southern drawl, John Wayne had this elusive ability to say the right thing at the right time. One of The Duke's greatest quotes is, "Courage is being scared to

death...and saddling up all the way." That's true. No one seems to want to stick up for the little guy anymore; it feels like everyone's afraid that they might hurt the feelings of the person causing the trouble. How about, "Life is hard; it's harder if you're stupid." There's a great point when it comes to our decaying public education system, you know, the one where everyone wants to coddle the lazy kids. "Talk low, talk slow and don't say too much." Lately everyone seems to have an opinion on everything. That doesn't mean you have to express it. And last but not least, "Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday." This might be the most important lesson of all. We have forgotten to see the forest for the trees, or was it the trees for the forest? Whatever. Something's got to give and hopefully it'll be the issue with disrespect. If people would start putting some thought into their actions things would slowly start to change. We can start ourselves by focusing on the little things. Saying "hello" when someone says "hi," "thank you" when someone opens the door and being kind to our elders. We're all going to be old someday. And last but not least remember the importance of Dec. 7. John Wayne would've liked that.

Write to Justin Goad at [JUSTIN.GOAD@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:JUSTIN.GOAD@STUDLIFE.COM)

## FED FROM PAGE 4

Jamie Dimon thought that lining the pockets of his Brioni suit with Fed dollars was a better plan than saving JPMorgan Chase. Skepticism is good, and most people have their faults, but at a certain point, irrational anger's short little head bumps into the chest of rationality. There is no doubt that our economy is still struggling, that it was silly to let unemployment benefits expire in a time of need, and that people are struggling to find work and support their families. That much is indisputable. But what is also true is that the Fed, in a rather short period of time, came up with an innovative and effective way to save an industry that was on the verge of collapse. An industry that helps all of us afford to buy homes and cars and all the other crap we own. Yes, our government and economy still face major problems, but had the Fed not given free money to Wall Street, I have a feeling we'd be in a much, much worse situation. As the saying goes, we'd be up \$#!^ creek without a paddle.

Charlie Low is a junior in Arts & Sciences. Write to Charlie at [CHARLIE.LOW@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:CHARLIE.LOW@STUDLIFE.COM)



Thumbs up to course evals—take them!

Thumbs up to Cody Katz's facial hair! We like to see our student politicians take a leaf out of Al Gore's book.

Thumbs up to Hanukkah (and to the AP Stylebook for giving us one way to spell it).



Thumbs down to Ben & Jerry's—seriously?

Thumbs down to geese. This wasn't particularly timely, we just really don't like them.

Thumbs down to the combination of work and cold—we weren't ready for December.



# cadENZA

## MOVIE REVIEW

### '127 Hours'

★★★★★



CHUCK ZLOTNICK | OPULENCE STUDIOS

James Franco stars as Aron Ralston, an overconfident hiker caught by a fallen boulder in '127 Hours.'

#### PERCY OLSEN SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

Aron Ralston (James Franco) thinks that he's superhuman. He creates situations designed to inflate his ego. Case-in-point, he surrounds himself with his family and friends but consciously decides not to notify them when he's about to leave society and spend the weekend hiking in Utah. He's lying to himself, telling himself that the world is suffocating him, when actually he's the one who pulled people in so close. And in Utah he feels like Superman, leaping from rock to rock, flying faster than a speeding bullet, taping the whole thing, of course, so he can show it off to the world when he makes his triumphant return.

That's Aron at the beginning of the movie. We all know how his situation is going to change: A boulder falls and traps Aron. Before the incident, shots of Aron using his arm to steady himself hang over your head like a guillotine. And after the boulder falls, every time the camera tilts down to his trapped right arm, you cringe a little. The arm is pinched at the elbow, and the image stays in your head. You realize that it's the perfect picture of an arm. It's smooth and toned but not bulging. Little veins pop up every now and then. But it's trapped in a horrifying and perfect harmony. He can't pull it out as long as the rock pushes on it, and the rock won't budge as long as his arm supports it.

Aron values his arm, as any person

would when first thrown into his situation. He tugs and twists, and he tries to chip away at the boulder. He even fashions a pulley that goes nowhere. All the while he grows more and more dehydrated, and maybe it's just the dried-up delirium talking, but when he sees that his forearm is purple and dead, Aron wonders if there's a point to holding onto the thing. You squirm and yell, "No! There must be another way." But Danny Boyle and Simon Beaufoy's script has played a trick on you. You're caught aggrandizing the dead arm in the same way that Aron pumped up his ego. Except now even Aron has figured out that he can't do everything by himself. He has to cut off the arm and find help.

And so the story is about ceding self-control (but never individuality) and embracing those around you. Boyle and his cinematographers use split-screens and blaring music to stay tied tight to every angle of Aron's emotions as he moves from confident to doubting to triumphant. The direction is appropriately ephemeral and moving, as is Franco's performance. "127 Hours" is basically a one-man show—there is even a laugh-track thrown in for good measure—and Franco owns the stage. He's hilarious when he's supposed to be, and he's just humble and joyful enough at the end to make you forgive the guy for not leaving a note before going on the hike.

Write to Percy Olsen at  
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## ALBUM REVIEWS

### 'The Beginning' The Black Eyed Peas



★★★★☆

for fans of

David Guetta, generic club songs

tracks to download

'The Time (Dirty Bit),' 'Just Can't Get Enough,' 'Do It Like This'

#### ALEX TERRONO MOVIE EDITOR

The Black Eyed Peas have gone through a lot of changes, from socially conscious hip hop trio, to Fergie-featuring pop superstars, to dance-floor mavens. Last year, the Peas took over the charts with their Grammy-nominated "The E.N.D." This album marked the beginning of their move toward dance and electronic music. Now, their new album, "The Beginning," completes the transformation.

No song on the album is free of a standard dance beat, a fine helping of autotune and will.i.am. Here lies the problem. Most of the album sounds like generic dance music that you could hear in any European club. It's bland

and repetitive, often fading into the background. The forgettable "Fashion Beats" exemplifies the general tone of the album, with its almost offensively bad vocals from Fergie. Also disappointing is "Love You Long Time," featuring will.i.am singing well outside of his vocal range.

"Beginning," does have its moments. "The Time (Dirty Bit)" is catchy and more original than the other songs on the album, and "Do It Like This"—basically "Imma Be" Part 2—and "Just Can't Get Enough" sound different than most of the album and actually demonstrate some feeling.

Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

Write to Alex Terrono at  
ALEX.TERRONO@STUDLIFE.COM

### 'Pink Friday' Nicki Minaj



★★★★☆

for fans of

Young Money, Drake, Rihanna

tracks to download

'Blazin,' 'Roman's Revenge,' 'Dear Old Nicki'

#### GEORGIE MORVIS CADENZA REPORTER

At long last, BET's Best New Artist Nicki Minaj has released her first album. Unfortunately, on "Pink Friday" she falls short of her reputation, offering an above-average pop album that shows flashes of brilliance but is ultimately suffocated by commerciality.

The album

is chock-full of radio-friendly songs similar to her rather bland singles "Your Love" and "Right Thru Me," rather than brash raps like her verses on Kanye West's "Monster" and Trey Songz's "Bottoms Up." There is a surplus of synthesizers and auto-tune, and a severe shortage of swagger.

The triumphant opening tracks, "I'm the Best," and "Roman's Revenge," seem to promise the album everyone has expected, but the album quickly devolves, turning into forgettable filler. Almost lost in this mess is "Blazin'" featuring Kanye West, who seems to bring out the best in her. The only other notable song on the album is "Dear Old Nicki," in which Minaj laments her own selling-out: "Yo, did I chase the glitz and glamour, money, fame and power? / Cause if so, that will forever go down my lamest hour." It is a strange lyric to put on an album full of pandering, but comes in a song that nevertheless gives me hope for albums yet to come.

Write to Georgie Morvis at  
GEORGIE.MORVIS@STUDLIFE.COM

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# sports

## Richter returns to starting lineup after quick recovery from broken arm

DANIEL KURZNER  
SPORTS REPORTER

After Dylan Richter broke his upper arm during the first week of the semester, X-ray technicians told him that he would be unable to play basketball this season.

However, the junior co-captain of the Washington University men's basketball team persevered through an unexpectedly short rehabilitation period and rejoined the Bears' lineup on Nov. 22 against Augustana College.

Despite the initial diagnosis, Richter followed up with other doctors, who gave him a more optimistic timetable for his return. In his first doctor's visit, Richter was told that he would be out for three to four months, but he was continuously surprised by his doctor's insistence that he was recovering more quickly than expected.

"Each time I went in for a checkup, [my arm] was doing better and better," Richter said. "I was able to come back and play in a little under three months, so it ended up working out well."

The broken humerus marked the second serious injury in Richter's college career. Near the end of his freshman season, a foot injury kept him on crutches for about three months.

Richter attributes his quick rehab to a device called a bone stimulator, which he had from the previous injury.

"You just basically plug [the bone stimulator] onto the area where you broke a bone, and it's supposed to stimulate growth by attracting more blood cells to the area," Richter said. "My mom likes to say that's what made the difference, and I believe that probably had an effect on why [the recovery] went so fast."

Despite reassuming his role as a leader and a playmaker for the Bears last week, Richter realized that he still had some work to do to get back to

his peak performance on the court. Nevertheless, Richter couldn't wait to rejoin his teammates.

"Whenever you're out for a while, you kind of take for granted what you were able to do before," Richter said. "I obviously lost some conditioning, and I haven't played basketball in a while, so I've got a little ways to go with that, but being able to get back out there was awesome. I was ecstatic."

Richter's first and second games of the season were also the Bears' second and third consecutive losses, and the team now stands at 2-3 on the season. Despite the slide, Richter is optimistic about the direction that the Bears are taking to establish their identity.

"Last year, it was pretty solidified who was playing, who was getting what shots, what people's role on the team was," Richter said. "This year, people are trying to see what their role is, and no one really knows what that's going to be."

Richter, one of four players on this year's team who received significant playing time last year (along with seniors Spencer Gay and Caleb Knepper and junior Alex Toth), gave a vote of confidence to head coach Mark Edwards and his offensive system and believes that good execution under the system can turn the Bears' losing streak around.

"We've just got to believe in each other, be held accountable for what we're doing out on the court, and buy into Coach's system because it's proven. It works," Richter said. "We've won two championships with it, and we're planning on winning another one real soon."

The Bears will host the 27th Annual Lopata Classic at the Field House this weekend and will play their home opener at 8 p.m. against Tsinghua University of China.



JOHANN QUA HIANSEN | STUDENT LIFE

Then-sophomore Dylan Richter brings the ball up the court in a Feb. 19 game against Case Western Reserve University. Richter broke his arm before this season began, but his quick recovery had him back in the lineup on Nov. 22 at Augustana College.

Write to Daniel Kurzner at DANIEL.KURZNER@STUDLIFE.COM

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SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 3, 2010

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**  
1 Thread bearer  
6 Classic name in shoes  
10 Dressed  
14 Aquarium concern  
15 Fabled craft  
16 Old  
17 "So I hear your job as exercise class instructor is ..."  
19 Word with belly or blast  
20 "Forget it, comrade!"  
21 Ancient Andean  
22 Davenport shopper, probably  
23 Artist Magritte  
25 Branch honcho: Abbr.  
26 Pops (out)  
29 "So I hear your job as a burlesque dancer is ..."

**DOWN**  
35 Choice  
37 Big, outmoded piece of equipment  
38 Paris pronoun  
39 Accountant, at times  
41 Airport safety org.  
42 Carousing  
44 Shiny fabric  
46 "So I hear your trash removal business is ..."  
48 Revenge seekers in a 1984 film  
49 Dollar sign shape  
50 Baltic resident  
52 Early afternoon hr.  
55 Disease attacker  
57 Helps out  
61 Demagogue's delivery  
62 "So I hear your scuba diving business is ..."  
64 Wine region south of the Matterhorn  
65 "Got it, Daddy-o!"  
66 Party person  
67 DEA agent  
68 Frosty's button  
69 Honshu city

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

By Pancho Harrison 12/3/10

32 Lash LaRue film, e.g.  
33 Joined by melting  
34 Artist \_\_\_\_ Hals  
36 Parts of directions  
40 MBA, for one  
43 One looking askance  
45 Lockjaw  
47 Drop dramatically  
51 Breakfast fare

52 Algerian port  
53 Apollo 13 gp.  
54 \_\_\_\_acte  
55 Bygone bird  
56 Teddy Roosevelt biographer  
58 "I have an \_\_\_\_!"  
59 Student's spot  
60 Arg. miss  
62 Cry while showing one's cards  
63 Actor Tognazzi

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# scene

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CHELSEY ERWAY | STUDENT LIFE

CHELSEY ERWAY  
SCENE COLUMNIST

When considering the St. Louis restaurant scene, there are many choices for upscale dining. Then there are restaurants that take it to the next level. What's the difference? A taste of the country French fare of Brasserie by Niche clearly has the answer.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped through Brasserie's doors was the intoxicating aroma of food cooked in butter and wine. Large antique cognac advertisements fittingly decorated the dining room's warm-toned walls, and a simple sheet of brown butcher paper and a small candle adorned each table, creating a cozy, unimposing atmosphere.

In this quaint setting, my friend and I began our meal with a satisfying glass of Beaujolais and bowl of vichyssoise, a cold, creamy potato soup topped with a drizzle of chive puree and served with crusty bread. Next came a thick slice of the country pâté, composed mostly of duck liver, dotted with pistachios and pieces of duck heart. It was just soft enough to spread onto the crostini that accompanied it—the pâté was presented on a plain rustic wooden board. The somewhat strong gaminess of the pâté was complemented by the tanginess of some whole grain mustard dabbed on top.

I feasted on a lightly seared skate wing for the main course. At first the fish appeared a

little fibrous and I feared it might be tough.

To my great delight, however, it had a tender melt-in-your-mouth quality, revealing a mild pleasant flavor that stood up to its lemony sauce and bits of cauliflower and capers.

The most outstanding dish of the meal came last: pithivier, a flaky, buttery pastry filled with almond paste and served with a dollop of brandy ice cream. It was a classic marriage of flavors and textures: nutty, buttery, crispy and creamy—a fine way to end a great meal.

Service at Brasserie was well-timed despite the dinner rush, and the wait staff was courteous and helpful. The menu is quite reasonably priced for its good quality, though this restaurant is probably still best saved for a special occasion. Cocktails, wines by the glass and small plates average \$8 with main courses around \$18 and desserts at \$6. The restaurant also offers a frequently changing Menu du Jour, a three-course meal for \$30.

What makes Brasserie so special is the concurrent simplicity and excellence of its dishes. You probably won't find any experimental dishes or bizarre-sounding flavor combinations on the menu. Instead, the recipes seem simple, each favoring a few high-quality ingredients cooked with time and care. It's classic and satisfying. It's fine dining.

Write to Chelsey Erway  
CHELSEY.ERWAY@STUDLIFE.COM

## The Ghost Lights a cappella prepares to make its mark

HANNAH MARKELL  
SCENE REPORTER

With the catchy show tunes of "Glee" springing into the spotlight, it seems odd that not one of Washington University's many a cappella groups has focused on Broadway show music—until now. Formed in the spring of 2009, The Ghost Lights is an a cappella group dedicated to singing songs from the theater.

The motto of this new group is, "if there's a theater involved, we'll sing it" according to sophomore and founder Cary Simowitz. By "theater" he means home theater, movie theater or live theater—all of which inspire the new group's repertoire. The group features popular crowd-pleasing theater tunes like

"Run Freedom Run" from Urinetown, The Little Shop of Horrors medley, "The Song of Purple Summer" from Spring Awakening and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" from Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Simowitz and his co-founders saw a need for an a cappella group that would cater to the schedules of students who also wanted to participate in Performing Arts Department shows. In the spring, Simowitz's participation in the musical "Ragtime" conflicted with rehearsals for his previous a cappella group. He noticed that other cast members were in a similar dilemma—and it wasn't long before they banded together to form The Ghost Lights.

Don't let the name fool you—they will not be wandering campus singing ghostly dirges

or only performing on Halloween. The unique name stems from the theater term "ghost light," a light left on in the theater overnight. Some say it's to keep away the "bad spirits" of forsaken performers. The more practical explanation, however, is that it gives the late-working stagehands a guiding light so they can find their way out of the theater.

Simowitz feels that their name symbolizes dedication to singing and performing, as the ghost light helps the late-night, hardworking theater members who leave at the very end of the night.

Forming The Ghost Lights was not an easy process. Though they are an official student group, they were not accepted into Wash. U.'s governing a cappella committee, the A Cappella Auditions Council (ACAC).

According to Simowitz, the group was initially rejected because the ACAC wanted to ensure the group would stay stable over their first year in existence and continue to grow. The group plans to reapply next year.

Currently, The Ghost Lights has 15 members. They recently sang at Nobel Laureate Douglass North's birthday celebration, but their first official Wash. U. performance will be a joint concert with other a cappella groups at Ursa's Dec. 10 at 10 p.m. Until then, be on the lookout for impromptu performances around campus, something that the budding, passionate group is known for.

*Editor's note: Cary Simowitz is a Student Life copy editor.*

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## Go big or go home

### The ultimate night out at Lumière Place

AMANDA AARON AND JACLYN BILD  
NIGHTLIFE COLUMNISTS

The stretch between Thanksgiving and winter break is always tough. In the midst of catching up on readings, writing those essays, preparing for presentations, studying for exams and dealing with the cold weather blues, it's very easy for students to fall into a slump. We think this "slump" should be avoided at all costs, and we have the perfect solution for you: Take advantage of your last chance to go out before you buckle down in the library during reading week.

If you're 21, there's no better way to have a great night than by heading downtown to Lumière Place. They've got it all—the food, the gambling and the nightlife, and we're going to tell you just how to take advantage of everything they have to offer.

Start your night out with an awesome, gigantic burger from renowned chef Hubert Keller's Burger Bar. Try the Kobe Beef Burger for a guaranteed burst of juice and tenderness. And if meat isn't your thing—no problem! The Chef's veggie burger, made with caramelized onions, mushrooms, pumpkin puree, lentils, brown rice and mozzarella cheese, rivals any of the menu's beef contenders. To top off your selection, you can add as many toppings as you like from a massive selection including jalapeño bacon, guacamole, fried eggs, grilled shrimp and a chipotle aioli spread. The best part is that you don't have to pay a penny over \$20 for all of it. (Although, after making mad money at the casino, that may not be a concern.)

Next, hit up the tables! Lumière's new casino is equipped with 2,000 slot machines, 55 tables and an impressive 13-table poker room. The dealers are friendly, and as the night progresses, their jokes and playful

encouragement make it hard to leave. The casino is also open 24 hours a day, so you may want to bring a friend capable of luring you away when enough is enough. The drink service can be a bit slow, but after hours at the tables, this may be a good thing!

Finally, if you're able to break away from gambling, head over to one of the three nightlife spots in the complex (or if you're really ambitious, we guess you can try to hit up all three).

Aqua, the most low-key of the three, has an extensive (and classy) drink menu. A baby grand piano takes center stage in this lounge, which hosts live music every Thursday and Saturday. The signature waterfall in the center is alluring—some even call it hypnotic—and adds to Aqua's serene classiness.

Globar is a bit more stylish and upbeat and is located right in the center of the action. This spot is best for a large, rowdy crowd.

Sleek is the "sexiest" of them all, known as a place to pick up dates and enjoy a flirtatious energy. The lounge is equipped with a "liquor library" and is always filled with fashionable people looking to have fun.

Whatever the occasion—whether it's a date, a night out with the girls, a fraternity gathering or a blowout with all of your friends—Lumière has all you might want for a perfect night. And hey, even if you're underage, you can still grab a burger, watch the craziness from afar and head over to Laclede's Landing, just steps from Lumière's entrance.

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## Learn art, eat art

AGNES TRENCHÉ  
SCENE REPORTER

It's not rare for cultural centers to promote art in peculiar ways—the City Museum is proof of that. But it's back to the basics for the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis (CAM), which has shown that the path to a visitor's artistic side can, like so many other paths, be carved through the stomach.

The first Saturday of each month, the CAM hosts "Food for Thought." This free event showcases new and ongoing exhibits, and gives visitors a chance to taste foods made by local chefs and inspired by exhibition pieces. Founded in collaboration with the Great Rivers Biennial program, a joint effort by the CAM and the Gateway Foundation to promote the St. Louis art scene, Food for Thought sets up a relaxed, half-hour slot for food tasting, a subsequent exhibit tour and, afterward, an hour-long workshop led by local artists.

According to the CAM's public events coordinator, Alex Elmestad, food can facilitate social interaction and make people feel more receptive to an artistic experience. "Once people eat they feel more relaxed, more willing to engage in some type of a tour, a type of dialogue," Elmestad said.

It is easy to imagine whetting your artistic appetite while satisfying a culinary one—for example, a colorful salad with raisins and oranges, a past dish featured at Food for Thought, was inspired by a polka dot piece.

Food tasting, all by its lonesome, isn't the goal of the event, however. Elmestad compared the three stages of the event to three corresponding ways of learning. For food lovers, the composition-based similarities between food and art might stand out; for the listener, the conceptual depth of the tours might be more appealing. The hands-on element of the workshops—catered to

adults especially, but open for anyone 10 and up—can educate visitors in the complexities involved in creating contemporary art.

Elmestad said that the finished works visitors are used to seeing in museums are hardly reflective of the efforts artists undertake before opening night. "There's so much work involved in getting to that point," he said.

Currently, the museum is showcasing Elad Lassry's "Sum of Limited Views," comprised of different types of framed photographs, and "Hair" by Richard Artschwager, which explores the themes of perception and deception. Laura Fried, who specializes in Lassry's work and knows about his exploration of the photographic medium, will lead the tour. Quiche and crepes are on the menu for this Saturday's session—influenced, according to Elmestad, by some egg-inspired artwork found within the exhibits.

The event is intimate, with a flexible 35-person cap that fills on a first-come, first-serve basis. If absorbing some cultural patrimony through the palate—and more conventional means—sounds fitting to you, then make your way downtown this Saturday and explore what the CAM has to offer. And it couldn't come at a more perfect time, as everyone seems to be looking for that last hoorah before finals set in.

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**Tastings 12:30 pm**  
**Tours 1:00 pm**  
**Workshops 1:30 - 2:30 pm.**

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