



GAME GIVEAWAY
CADENZA, PAGE 8



WOMEN'S HOOPS
SPORTS, PAGE 6



OSCAR FASHION
SCENE, PAGE 3

Student Life

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

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Students struggle to hear sirens during tornado warning

MICHAEL TABB
NEWS EDITOR

A tornado warning for St. Louis County led students across campus to seek shelter—though many students could barely hear the sirens.

According to Mark Bagby, Washington University's emergency management coordinator, there have been no reports that sirens did not go off as expected, and a silent test conducted this morning proved the system to be operational.

In a discussion between school officials and students Tuesday afternoon, two students reported that they had heard the sirens. Other students reported not hearing anything or not paying attention.

Sophomore Nick Kavanagh expected the sirens on top of his building to go off, but he heard nothing—even when he was standing directly outside of Nemerov.

"They 100 percent did not go off," Kavanagh said. "I could hear in the distance the ones coming off from the top of Graham Chapel, but they were very, very faint, and if the wind had been stronger, I probably would not have heard them."

Because it was so quiet, he believed it to be a "safe" warning, as

SEE SIRENS, PAGE 2



EVAN FREEDMAN | STUDENT LIFE

A tornado that ripped through Richmond Heights last Sunday night brought down power lines along Big Bend Boulevard, seen here looking south from Clayton Road. While power was not lost on campus, blocks of Kingsbury Boulevard and Washington Avenue lost power briefly on Tuesday.

WU recognized for tree upkeep

CHLOE ROSENBERG
NEWS EDITOR

Washington University has earned recognition as a tree-friendly campus.

The University was named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. This distinction is given to campuses that meet five requirements, and currently more than 100 campuses nationwide have received the recognition.

Washington University is one of the first schools in Missouri to give the award. There are approximately 3,800 trees on campus.

The requirements are that the campus have a tree advisory committee, a campus tree care plan, money dedicated to the tree care program, Arbor Day observance and evidence of a service-learning project.

"By encouraging its students to plant trees and participate in service that will help the environment, Washington University is making a positive impact on its community that will last for decades," John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation, said in a press release.

Although not all students participate in these events, they do appreciate the beauty of campus.

"I think it is fantastic. I noticed we had awesome landscaping, but we never realize that we have so many trees," junior Laura Edison said. "We take the landscaping for granted, but it really is awesome, and we need to

SEE TREE, PAGE 2



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Students sit under a tree outside of Olin Library in early November. The University was recently named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Danforth Campus is home to more than 3,800 trees of 46 different species.

Multicultural hip hop week funded

MICHELLE MERLIN
NEWS EDITOR

Student Union Treasury voted to allocate funding toward an individual appeal for U.S.-Mideast Hip Hop Exchange Week.

The week will feature hip hop artists from the Middle East and St. Louis and will take place from April 10 to April 17.

It will be focused on breaking down the misconceptions Americans have about the Middle East—and those that Middle Easterners have about America—through the artistic medium of hip-hop.

Universal Beatz, the group running the event, appealed for all of the \$18,220.30 remaining in the individual appeals account but was allocated \$12,799 by Treasury on Tuesday.

The group will bring Soutana Sawt Nssa, a female Moroccan rapper; Yisrael Moshe Chaim aka Marvin Casey, an Israeli rapper who is originally from St. Louis; and Y-Love and Diwon, Hassidic artists from Brooklyn, to Washington University. The artists will perform and interact with student groups and local St. Louis hip-hop artists.

Universal Beatz is working with more than 20 student groups so that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with the artists during the week.

"We're really trying to focus on this idea of building personal relationships," Universal Beatz President Nicole Lopez said.

Students will have the opportunity to be ambassadors to the artists and spend time with them on and off campus.

The week will include an informal panel about hip-hop, a formal panel featuring artists and professors about the Middle East, a workshop on creative activism, a conference with high school students, volunteer opportunities with City Faces, and other programming.

There will also be a rap battle on the Swamp and a performance at the end of the week.

Universal Beatz would have used the funding it did not receive to fund additional artists, including Shadia Mansour, a Palestinian woman at the forefront of the Middle East hip-hop world, and B boy Zilla, a Bahrainian break-dancer.

Week organizers are looking for

SEE HIP HOP, PAGE 2

Tech committee seeks to address Wi-Fi concerns

KELSEY TIMES
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Washington University students voiced their concerns with wireless internet on campus, along with other technology-related issues, in a discussion with a University-hired technology consultant on Monday.

The Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) held an open meeting with Elliot Fishman, an external consultant whose firm IS & T was hired to act as an intermediary between students and administrators.

Students at the meeting expressed dissatisfaction with both wireless Internet and the WUSTL Key system.

Although no administrators were present, students believe that the discussion demonstrated University concern for students' technological problems and shows that the administration is taking steps to implement improvements. The University has not hired a technology consultant since at least 2006.

"It's nice that [University administrators] are addressing technical issues and taking them seriously," STAC chair Anthony Bernatas-Popeo said. "After transferring here after my freshman year, I saw a noticeable

difference in the way that the University handled situations."

Throughout the past two semesters, many students have experienced problems with Internet access. These include issues with login, passwords and general connectivity to WUFI-S, the University's most secure Wi-Fi network.

This difficulty is largely attributed to insufficient bandwidth, which is a measure of connection speed.

According to the advisory committee, the wireless network is at capacity between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m., which means Internet speeds are slowest between those times.

Improving campus Wi-Fi and wireless access to online services is high on Student Union's agenda this semester. In collaboration with STAC, SU has proposed drawing on the advantages of mobile Internet in order to make applications like WebSTAC and WebFood more accessible to students who don't carry laptops.

The group also addressed issues with Telesis and WebSTAC, noting that because both sites are outdated and slow to load, they need improvement.

SEE WI-FI, PAGE 2

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WEATHER FORECAST

WEDNESDAY 2

SUNNY
51 / 35



THURSDAY 3

SUNNY
58 / 49



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It’s a medium for people who otherwise wouldn’t have a voice to criticize society or talk about the day-to-day realities they might face.”

—Senior Nicole Lopez, President of Universal Beatz, on hip hop in the Middle East

EVENT CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY 2

Student Union Elections and Block Funding

su.wustl.edu/vote

Polls are open until March 2 at 8 p.m. Vote for block funding, SU Senate, SU Exec and SU Treasury.

K.A.R.L. X-Games

Rebstock Hall, Room 215, 10 – 11 p.m.

K.A.R.L. Improv will be putting on an Improv battle between ladies and fellas. The show is free.

THURSDAY 3

Assembly Series: Israel – The Key to a Thriving Global Economy

Graham Chapel, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Dan Senor, author of the best-seller “Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle” will discuss Israel’s meteoric rise as an entrepreneurial power house. The talk will be hosted by Wash. U. Students for Israel and Delta Sigma Pi.

Lambda Sigma: Free Sundaes

Bear’s Den, 6 – 8 p.m.

Lambda Sigma, the sophomore community service honor society, is giving out free ice cream sundaes as part of their Random Acts of Kindness Week.

POLICE BEAT

Feb. 25, 2011

■ Larceny—4:21 p.m., Simon Hall

A complainant reported a lost or stolen student ID card, which was subsequently used to make unauthorized purchases in Simon Hall. Damage is valued at \$52.50. Disposition: pending

Feb. 28, 2011

■ Larceny—6:14 p.m., Seigle Hall

A complainant reported a laptop stolen from his unattended backpack. The value of the computer is \$1700. Disposition: pending

■ Larceny—6:41 p.m.

Brown Hall

A complainant reported her unattended purse was stolen from the hallway of Brown Hall. The purse was valued at \$1515. Disposition: cleared by arrest and recovery of property

WI-FI FROM PAGE 1

The students present agreed that both Telesis and WebSTAC have a variety of capabilities but are not used as effectively as they could be. Because some students must regularly access both sites, the group suggested streamlining the two into one central portal.

Fishman and his consulting firm are looking to pass recommendations to the University that will benefit students, faculty and administrators.

“We aim to collect and synthesize information about what’s working well and what needs improvement,” Fishman said. “Especially, we are looking at where the structure of technology service creates limitations. That’s our central goal.”

The IS & T project is sponsored by Provost Ed Macias, Executive Vice Chancellor Hank Webber and Vice Chancellor for Finance Barb Feiner.

Bernatas-Popeo hopes the University will make immediate efforts to resolve some of the issues that were raised at the meeting.

“Hopefully, noticeable improvements will be made in order to make campus technology sustainable for everyone,” Bernatas-Popeo said.

Write to Kelsey Times at [KELSEY.TIMES@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:kelsey.times@studlife.com)

SIRENS FROM PAGE 1

opposed to an actual tornado warning.

According to Steve Hoffner, associate vice chancellor for operations, the sirens should have been clearly audible.

“It was a typical tornado warning siren, which revs up and then continues at a steady pace for a couple of minutes,” Hoffner said. “To the best of our knowledge, they did go off, but we’ll have an opportunity to check live Monday morning.”

The University will test its sirens on Monday at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Sophomore Abby Traub was on the fourth floor of Nemerov when she saw weather warnings on TV. She didn’t hear the sirens either.

“I didn’t hear any sirens, so I assumed it wasn’t actually a tornado,” Traub said. “I didn’t hear anything.”

The University relies on the sirens, which are controlled by the county’s emergency alert system, instead of its own WUSTLAlerts

system. According to Bagby, WUSTLAlerts has only been used once since it was created in 2007—for the University closing this past January.

“The WUSTLAlerts system is a University-wide alert system for life-threatening emergencies or emergencies that we need to get information to people very, very quickly—for example, a gunman on campus or a hazardous materials threat,” Bagby said. “For severe weather, we rely on our outdoor warning sirens.”

According to Bagby, damage from the storm was minimal, and no locations on campus lost power.

WUSTLAlerts is being tested on March 9 to ensure that the system works and that students are familiar with it. The University’s warning sirens will be tested on March 7, the first Monday of the month.

Write to Michael Tabb at [MICHAEL.TABB@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:michael.tabb@studlife.com)

TREE FROM PAGE 1

appreciate it more.”

The foliage on campus is overseen by the Danforth Campus tree advisory committee, which is comprised of four members of the biology department in addition to members of the local St. Louis, Clayton and University City communities.

“It is an honor for Washington University to be recognized nationally for its dedication to the environmentally responsible management of our trees, and for our programs to educate our campus and outside community on the beautiful variety of trees we have on the Danforth Campus,” Kent Theiling, grounds manager and horticulturist for the Danforth Campus, said in

a press release.

There are a total of 46 species and 76 varieties of trees on the Danforth Campus. These varieties include Bard Cypress and Ginkgo, among others.

Other schools that were recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation include Emory, Purdue and Tulane universities, Virginia Tech and the University of Pennsylvania.

Write to Chloe Rosenberg at [CHLOE.ROSENBERG@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:chloe.rosenberg@studlife.com)

HIP HOP FROM PAGE 1

more money from campus departments and other venues.

Lopez first got the idea for the week when she was studying abroad in Jordan last year.

“I find that hip-hop is a lot more than music, especially in the Jordanian context,” Lopez said. “It’s a medium for people who otherwise wouldn’t have a voice to criticize society or talk about the day-to-day realities they might face.”

This event is the second to be funded through the individual appeals account. The other sent students to the Rally to Restore Sanity in October.

The money that remains in the individual appeals account is still there, but it is likely to be moved back into the regular appeals account.

Treasury representatives were hesitant to fund the week in full because they knew that Universal Beatz was looking into other sources of funding as well. Some were unsure about paying for items like food for the artists, which would cost just under \$1,000.

“We are spending our student activities fee entertaining them (the artists) for eight days,” Treasury Representative Daniel Bernard said of using the entire \$18,220.30. “I think it

eliminates the extra step we wouldn’t take for anyone else.”

The final amount was based on a budget compiled by Universal Beatz. The group created three separate budgets including an “optimal” week and two other options with fewer artists. Treasury voted to fund the third and cheapest option.

The optimal option was set at \$28,783, and the second at \$18,899.

“We’re a little concerned about sources of funding because we’ve explored off-campus sources, and while they’ve been enthusiastic about the event, they haven’t necessarily had the type of money we needed to put this event on,” said Sarah Griffin, vice president of Universal Beatz. Some sources did say they would commit money after the group received substantial funding from SU.

Twelve Treasury representatives voted to approve the appeal for \$12,799, four voted against, and zero abstained.

Write to Michelle Merlin at [MICHELLE.MERLIN@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:michelle.merlin@studlife.com)

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scene

hot seams

Oscar fashion

GINIKA AGBIM
SCENE FASHION COLUMNIST

This annual Hollywood film industry event often serves as more of a fashion show than an awards show. Sure, many viewers are excited when their favorite film, actor or director beats out rivals in a particular category, but let's face it—it's all about what they're wearing. Chronicled in real time by fashionistas on Twitter, discussed by fashion-crazed bloggers on the Internet and critiqued by talk show hosts on programs such as "Fashion Police," Oscars fashion has become an entity of its own. It's a platform for designers and stylists to debut their craft to a wide audience, wider than those found at fashion shows in New York. It is here that many trends are made or established, Hollywood's most stylish are confirmed, and consequently, where many flubs can be found. This year, however, many played it safe, erring on the conservatively bland side of glamour.



KIRK MCKOY | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Best dressed

Jennifer Hudson in Versace

There's a new diva in town, and her name is Jennifer Hudson. The "American Idol" alumna looked stunning in this bold Versace gown. The color, fit and accessories were all very appropriate and showstopping. Well done!



JAY L. CLENDENIN | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Worst dressed

Helena Bonham Carter in costume designer Colleen Atwood

I'm not sure if I should begin with the hair or the corseted dress, but Helena Bonham Carter looked like a hot mess at this year's Academy Awards. I think it's time to hire a stylist...



LIONEL HAHN | ABACA PRESS | MCT

Most stylish duo

Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey

You simply cannot get any more stylish than this. The duo upped the glam factor at this year's Academy Awards. Camila Alves' floor-sweeping black dress looked the opposite of dowdy and gothic. And the center part of her hair and lack of a necklace were chic touches to her look, emphasizing her elegant décolletage.



JAY L. CLENDENIN | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Biggest surprise

Celine Dion in Armani Prive

This recent mother looked dazzling in this minimalist dress by Armani Prive. I definitely wasn't expecting this from the woman who wore a tuxedo backward to the 1999 Academy Awards. The metallic sheen on the dress lent just the right touch of glamour for the Oscars.



LIZ O. BAYLEN | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Biggest bore

Gwyneth Paltrow in Calvin Klein

OK, we get it—you're tall and lanky and the minimalist look is in now. However, you could have done so much more for the red carpet. We've seen this minimalist look on Gwyneth before—it's time to mix things up!



KIRK MCKOY | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Worst hair

Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter

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forum

STAFF EDITORIAL

Evaluating the UP slate

Each year, the Student Life editorial board conducts interviews with the candidates running for Student Union executive council and evaluates their platforms. This year, the UP slate, which consists of junior John Harrison York (president), sophomore MaryPat Sinclair (vice president of programming), sophomore Mamatha Challa (vice president of administration), junior Cody Katz (vice president of finance) and sophomore Amanda Signorelli (vice president of public relations), is running unopposed. Below, we have laid out our analysis of several key components of their platform.

Community service engagement in St. Louis

The UP administration intends to expand programming to get students involved in the surrounding community through Engage360, a program founded by York that fosters relationships between Washington University students and schools, shelters and nursing homes in the nearby 22nd ward of St. Louis.

We believe that this program represents a decided commitment to service and a much-needed link between the University and the City of St. Louis. York presented specific ideas for promoting student engagement, such as encouraging group participation in community service and tailoring programs to the creative strengths of Washington University students. With proper implementation, we believe that this is an area in which SU could shine next year.

Social and cultural engagement in St. Louis

UP mentioned finding new ways for students to engage themselves in social and cultural activity outside of the University bubble. York spoke about providing a University-funded shuttle service to popular social areas off campus, such as Midtown and Laclede's Landing. We endorse this initiative and believe that it could go a long way toward making students call St. Louis their permanent home.

Opening up access to administrators for Greek life and the Congress of the South 40

Much of the power of the executive branch of Student Union comes from its relationships with the administration. Unlike leaders of other groups on campus, SU execs have regularly scheduled meetings with administrators who can address specific student concerns. The UP slate mentioned the prospect of opening these meetings up to other student leaders, such as members of the Women's Panhellenic Association, the Interfraternity Council and CS40. York and his slate appear committed to open communication, and we stand behind any initiative to ensure that student concerns are dealt with directly.

The Rat as a gathering place for students

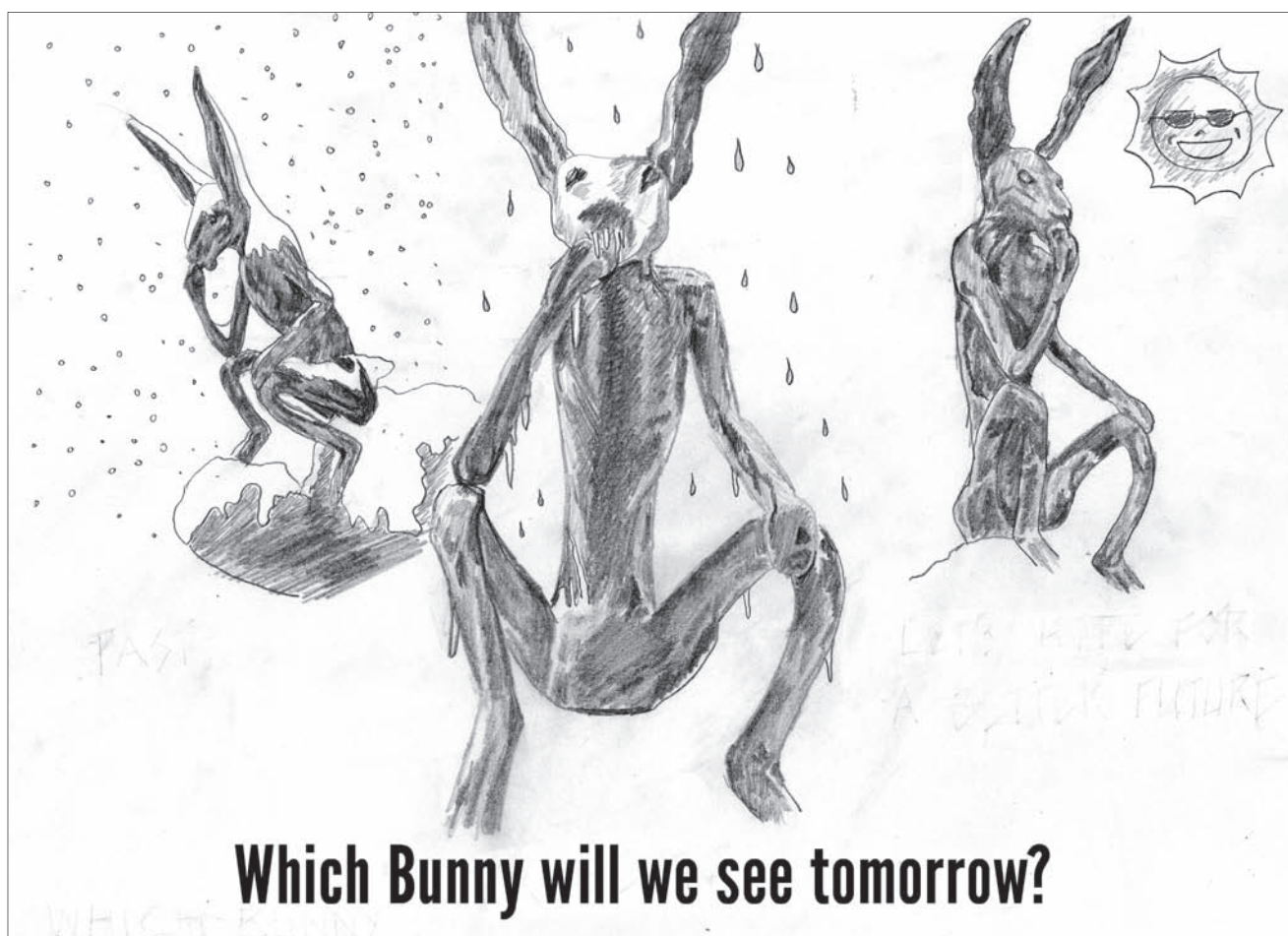
Next year's executive council wants to use the Umratshkellar—the space in Umratsh formerly occupied by Subway—as a space for new, innovative programming. The Rat isn't managed by Bon Appétit, so student groups who reserve the space for events will be able to serve whatever food that they want. Because

of its proximity to the Gargoyle, we would like to see the Rat become a new sort of social gathering space for students, and we hope that SU will enable students to take advantage of it.

External communication

All of these initiatives, though, are only as effective as the students who know about them. More than anything else, we believe that SU's first priority should be making students aware of what they're doing. Katz and Signorelli mentioned plans for focus groups that will meet with students and discuss their concerns on campus, as well as the creation of a centralized event calendar to be synced with student e-mail accounts. We believe that SU should consistently be looking for new ways to encourage students to generate ideas for programming and activism, and these initiatives seem like a good start. We encourage this administration to learn from the mistakes of previous slates by calling on students to approach them with concerns and maintaining as open a door as possible.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



AVIYA LANIS | STUDENT LIFE

All for peace in the Middle East

DANIEL DEIBLER
STAFF COLUMNIST

The Middle East is on fire. Every day, even though it seems as if things couldn't possibly get any worse, a new report comes out of Libya, Iran or Egypt telling us just how bad things have gotten in that part of the world.

It's kind of hard to be in St. Louis, far away from just about everything, and not be able to do anything. But even if we can't physically help—if I find a safe way to beat Moammar Gadhafi to a bloody pulp, I'm going to be skipping class for a few days—we can aid those fighting in the streets right now, just by paying attention.

I've made pleas for increased political literacy before, but all the issues of three months ago pale in comparison to the revolutions occurring right now. These people need us to pay attention to their fight

because that is the way change is created.

Discourse is important in any political issue, but these revolutions are driven by it. They started online, and without the ability of everyone to connect, without the ability to instantly get information around a country, none of this would have even started, let alone lasted as long as it has. Without anyone paying attention, this campaign for freedom would be dead.

Instead of being apathetic like we always are, we could use this opportunity to really get involved and stay involved, because the people out there need help, in any form, and if that requires watching CNN or reading The New York Times to make sure they are reporting on it, that is what needs to happen.

Talk to anyone who is in Libya right now, and they all will tell you the same thing: that they are heartened by our support, they take strength from our concern, and they need everyone to keep paying

attention and to learn as much as they can about the struggle.

There are reasons for being apathetic about things, and I agree with Matthew Curtis' recent column; knowledge can really be a chore sometimes. It is hard to stay informed about everything, and most issues are never as life-or-death as everyone makes them out to be, so apathy can be forgiven most of the time.

That is not the case now. When crowds are fighting in the streets, when a government is indiscriminately slaughtering its citizens for exercising their God-given right to protest, it is time for you to take notice and take action however you can.

Personally, I have absolutely zero idea what the protesters need from us right now, but if we can get in contact, they can tell us. Maybe they don't need anything physical, but I know that if we just pay attention, if we make sure that for once an issue isn't ignored or forgotten, things will

change in the Middle East.

We should remember that the people fighting out there aren't some fringe group that we can't relate to. These are people our age doing something more important for their country than most of us will ever accomplish for ours. If you don't care about the political issues, be inspired by the fact that these people are so similar to you in a lot of ways and are fighting for something truly important.

So join a Facebook group in support of Libyan revolutionaries, follow a Twitter account cataloging protests in Iran, keep track of how Egypt is doing in building a new democracy. Do whatever you can to listen to what is going on in the world, just this once, Wash. U. These people are fighting for survival at this very moment, and we can do a little something to help.

Daniel Deibler is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. Write to Daniel at DANIEL.DEIBLER@STUDLIFE.COM

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Oscar hosts = Lame salad



ERIN MITCHELL | STUDENT LIFE

LAURA MCGINNIS
STAFF COLUMNIST

The opening of the Academy Awards was decently charming but also set the stage for the uninspiring performance that was to come. James Franco adorably stepped off the “Inception”-themed elevator in a white leotard while Anne Hathaway annoyingly tripped over her feet in a duck costume while trying to parody “Black Swan.” Franco rode horseback while wearing a hilariously large bear pelt, and Hathaway wore two eye patches that obviously serve as ocular obstacles in a lame attempt to create humor in “True Grit.” Thankfully, just as I was near death, the DeLorean from “Back to the Future” made an appearance and ended the painful skit.

The theme of the night immediately became “James Franco is adorable, and Anne Hathaway is uptight and annoying.” Millions of women nationwide were completely jealous of Hathaway as they ogled Franco and envisioned themselves being lucky enough to be in the same room as his small, yet still toned from his moving role in “127 Hours,” body. Hathaway and Franco

unfortunately skipped the part where they were supposed to exude some basic form of chemistry and therefore created a boring show full of heartbreaking jokes.

“These two smagin’ hawties were hired to appeal to a younger demographic of viewers, and when asked today if they did a good job uniting my generation, I had to say, “Heck no.””

I was praying to Oscar the entire show that the other presenters would save the show with witty remarks and probing celebrity gossip; instead, I got lame salad and corny humor. The pair with the most romantic chemistry of the evening was Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; these

two bums made a few bro jokes that got me laughing. But overall, the performances—including the singing—were nothing more than awful, save the orchestra that beautifully performed the Best Original Scores.

Thankfully, Oscar finally answered my prayers, and midway through the show a comic miracle occurred: The Oscar presenters suddenly became incredibly still, almost fighting to maintain composure. While at first I thought they were being silly, I soon realized that some of the presenters were most definitely drunk or high, and since there is almost nothing I love more than celebs gone wild, I began laughing after every young person hit the stage.

A hot, blonde pair of presenters could barely deliver their lines. After one of them struggled to open the envelope, the pair began to chime different interpretations of the result. Later, a few of the younger presenters continued to emerge with more than glossy eyes and an unusual dedication to remaining still.

The best of it all was that Anne Hathaway seemed to emcee the entire end of the show, and every time, I was left thinking, “Where is my boyfriend (debatable) JFranc?” When I finally saw him in the end

with his face depicted side-by-side with the other Best Actor nominees, he was sitting backstage alone, droopy-eyed and giggling. When he lost the category, he still sat there with a goofy grin on his face while Anne Hathaway was left alone on the stage, seeming to scream at us with her body language, “I AM NOT FUN, I AM UPTIGHT AND LAME!”

These two smagin’ hawties were hired to appeal to a younger demographic of viewers, and when asked today if they did a good job uniting my generation, I had to say, “Heck no.” The opening parody, which was supposed to be fawesome, completely flopped. James Franco’s drag outfit was an offensive effort, especially since we all know he can do better after his covershoot for Candy Magazine.

In sum I hope that in the future, Oscar picks a more dynamic host, such as Billy Crystal, Jon Stewart, the Baldwin-Martin duo or even aspiring stand-up comic Laur McG to do a better job than what I saw Monday night.

Laura McGinnis is a senior in Arts & Sciences. Write to Laura at LAURA.MCGINNIS@STUDLIFE.COM

Make the choice to Relay this weekend

JOANNA PERDOMO
OP-ED SUBMISSION

Relay For Life is this weekend. From 6 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Sunday, an estimated 1,800 students, faculty, staff and community members will join together on Francis Field for a night of celebrating, remembering and fighting back against cancer.

Will you be there?

As Friday’s edition of Student Life highlighted, Mardi Gras is also this Saturday. This coincidence and the annual date selection of Relay is out of our control, but we do not see it as a conflict. Mardi Gras is a daytime event, ending in the afternoon. Relay For Life is an overnight event, beginning in the evening. If you so choose, *you can do both*.

However, if deciding between one or

the other, we strongly encourage you to choose Relay For Life. Relay For Life is one of the most meaningful events you will participate in during your time here at Washington University. Cancer affects us all. You may be the son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, cousin, student, friend or co-worker of someone who has survived or been lost to cancer. You may be an incredible survivor yourself. If you are lucky, you may not fit into one of these categories, but at the very least, you have friends who do. Relay For Life is a time for the Wash. U. community to unite in solidarity against this terrible disease, to support each other and share our personal struggles, and to find the united strength to combat cancer.

And it’s also a lot of fun. At Relay, you can catch performances by WU

Sauce, Raas and WU-SLAM; do Zumba and Piloxing (pilates + boxing—it’s all the rage in Hollywood!); get a massage; play Relay games throughout the night to win a bowling party; stay up with your friends and floormates; and eat FREE Chipotle, pizza and other goodies.

Wash. U.’s Relay For Life is currently the #1 ranked collegiate Relay in the nation. We have surpassed powerhouse schools with 7 to 10 times our population, such as the University of Georgia and Virginia Tech. We have already raised more than \$180,000 for the American Cancer Society, and we know that thanks to the support and donations of people on this campus and around the nation, this number will only keep rising.

These numbers and rankings represent more than pride. They are a testament to the enthusiasm and energy that the

Wash. U. student body has contributed to Relay For Life. All of the hard work, personal stories and excitement will culminate at the event this Saturday. You will be uplifted, humbled, saddened and empowered throughout the night. Most of all, you will be glad that you made the choice to attend Relay For Life.

We look forward to seeing you this Saturday. If you are not yet registered for a team, you can still sign up at relay.wustl.edu. You can also attend as a visitor for a \$10 donation at the door. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at wurelay@gmail.com.

See you at Relay!

Joanna Perdomo is a senior in Arts & Sciences and Co-Chair of the Relay For Life steering committee. Write to Joanna at JOANNA.PERDOMO@STUDLIFE.COM

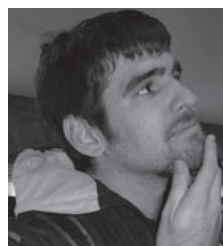
SPEAK YOUR MIND

Pre-spring break crunch time is upon us. How do you deal with the stress?



ROHIT RAY
senior

“Usually I’ll sign up for Stressbusters events...working out and trying to get outside when the weather’s nice.”



NICK JUSTIN
sophomore

“I don’t deal with the stress. I’m just using it until the point I write a really crappy novel or screenplay.”



ANNE DOHMEN
sophomore

“I watch ‘Glee,’ and it makes me happy!”

sports

Bears receive at-large bid to NCAA tournament

JOSH GOLDMAN
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The defending national champions have reached the postseason for the 22nd straight season.

The No. 12 Washington University women's basketball team will face No. 10 Denison University in the opening round of the 2011 Division III NCAA Women's Basketball Championship tournament on Friday night in Holland, Mich., as announced Monday by the NCAA Selection Committee.

"I felt like the body of work that these kids have accomplished, the kids deserve it," head coach Nancy Fahey said. "We value the opportunity and are very excited to practice in March."

The Bears received an at-large bid to the tournament after finishing the season 20-5 (11-3 University Athletic Association). The Bears finished second in the UAA to conference champion University of Chicago.

Wash. U. will need to play through a tough section of the tournament bracket in order to repeat as national champions. The Bears have been placed in the same opening section as host team No. 4 Hope College, No. 8 DePauw University and Denison.

The Bears have faced Denison (28-0, 14-0 North Coast Athletic Conference)

twice in program history, with Wash. U. winning both match-ups.

The lack of familiarity of the Bears with Denison cannot be said of Hope and DePauw. After losing the 2009 national championship game to George Fox University in Holland, Mich., the Bears then defeated Hope in the 2010 national championship game to win their first title in nine years. In a rematch of the title game this season, The Flying Dutch, then ranked No. 2, defeated the then-No. 4 Bears 49-47 in a neutral site game.

The Bears also know the DePauw University Tigers well, as both teams compete in the annual Tip-Off Tournament every year along with Illinois Wesleyan University. The Bears defeated the Tigers 58-56 at DePauw in the consolation game of the tournament this year.

Three of the four teams playing in Holland have won national championships in the last six seasons. Hope won the title in 2006, and DePauw defeated Wash. U. in the 2007 national championship game.

"It's a very tough bracket....I think it's going to be a great bracket. Familiarity is great, but at the same time, they're familiar with us....Hopefully we can take it one game at a time and see what happens."

Chicago is also in the Bears' quarter of the draw, and the two teams could meet for the third time this season in the quarterfinal round on March 14.



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Then graduate student Jaimie McFarlin and senior Zoë Unruh hoist the 2010 Division III national championship trophy after the Bears defeated Hope College in the title game. Wash. U. and Hope could meet for the third time in under a year if each team wins its opening round game of the 2011 Division III NCAA Women's Basketball Championship on Friday.

The University of Rochester has also reached the tournament out of the UAA. Write to Josh Goldman at JOSH.GOLDMAN@STUDLIFE.COM

Bears record first tie in softball program history

JOHANN QUA HIANSEN
SPORTS REPORTER

Darkness ended the Washington University softball team's attempt to salvage a win at its season opening weekend.

The No. 7 Bears fell 4-2 on Friday to host Rhodes College in the season opener before tying with No. 19 Transylvania University on Sunday at the Chick-fil-A Classic in Memphis, Tenn.

Tied 4-4 with Transylvania after seven innings, the teams skipped extra innings and agreed on a draw to prevent playing in the dark.

"I was really impressed with our defense compared to years past," head coach Leticia Pineda-Boutté said. "Typically, this time of the year its tough to adjust [to being outside for the first time]."

Wash. U. held the upper hand against Transylvania as sophomore pitcher Kathy

Peter limited the Pioneers to two hits in the first four innings. Sophomore Sondra Polonsky got the Bears on the board first with an RBI double in the fourth inning. The Red and Green then jumped on the Pioneers with a three-run fifth inning, anchored by back-to-back two-out home runs by seniors Ally Berenter and Claire Voris. Freshman Maggie Mullen was retired on a groundout to end the inning.

"We have a lot of solid hitters and saw spurts of good," junior co-captain Corissa Santos said.

But the Pioneers were not out of the running. Peter allowed one run in the fifth inning before turning the mound over to junior Olivia Cook at the top of the sixth. Cook, battling back from a sprained wrist, struggled in her season debut, allowing two hits and an error before recording her first out.

The Pioneers knotted the score, pushing across three runs in an aggressive

comeback. However, the final inning was quick for both teams as the sides were retired before the game was called.

In the team's season opener, the first three innings against Rhodes were a pitcher's duel between Voris and the Lynx' Cindy Bitters, as neither pitcher surrendered a run.

The Bears struck first, snapping the scoreless tie in the fourth inning with an explosive debut. Mullen opened her collegiate career with a bang, hitting a two-run home run for her first hit as a Bear.

"She's shown that she can be a starter," Pineda-Boutté said. "It's pretty special for her first hit in her collegiate career."

Mullen's shot was all the Bears could muster on offense, while the Lynx came back with a large fifth inning. Voris gave up three hits in a row to load the bases before striking out two Rhodes players. But with a single pitch, the tables were turned and Rhodes scored their first two

runs on a single to center field. This was followed by another two-run single before the side was retired on a strike out.

Despite the winless weekend, the Bears are focused on the positives. Besides the home runs from three different players, sophomore Ashley Janssen went three-for-four from the lead-off spot against Rhodes.

"We have a lot more to look forward to this season," Berenter said.

The Bears play MacMurray College, The University of Dallas and Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. this weekend before competing in the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championship over Spring Break. "With a few more games and a little more time on the dirt, we'll be ready for UAAs," Berenter said.

Write to Johann Qua Hiansen at J.QUAHIANSEN@STUDLIFE.COM



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Depth on display for men's tennis at Principia College

DANIEL KURZNER
SPORTS REPORTER

The Washington University men's tennis team gave some of its less-experienced players a chance to make an impression at the Principia College Invitational last weekend.

The Bears responded in convincing fashion, taking four of seven singles flights and one of three doubles flights against the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Truman State University and Principia College.

Freshman Naveen Chadalavada compiled a 3-0 record in singles play to win the No. 3 singles flight. Chadalavada also teamed up with freshman Max Franklin to win three doubles matches and take the No. 1 doubles flight.

"I feel like I was hitting the ball a lot better this weekend than I have in a couple of weeks," Chadalavada said. "I was serving a lot better. The forehand was coming around. Hopefully I can do that

the rest of the season."
Franklin finished 2-1 in singles overall. After losing his first match on Friday, he did not drop a set in his next two matches.

"I've been working a lot with coach [Follmer] on volleys, getting in to net on doubles and taking returns early," Franklin said. "My mental approach has also gotten better. [I am] staying level-headed on the court and staying consistent throughout the match."

Senior David Zhu, freshman Jeffrey Hirsh, and sophomore Seth Sankary each posted 3-0 singles records and won flight Nos. 4, 5 and 6, respectively. Freshman Tim Noack continued his impressive first season, posting a 2-1 record in singles. Sankary and Noack also went 2-1 in doubles.

"[Noack's] composure on the court is the best on the team. The guy doesn't get rattled," head coach Roger Follmer said. "You know what you're getting out of Tim Noack when he steps on the court.

He's going to battle. He's not going to fold under pressure."

Follmer believes that this weekend's performance not only proved that some of his young players were ready to be significant contributors this season, but also set an example for the rest of the team about the importance of heart and commitment.

"You can see a little bit of the 'eye of the tiger'-type thing, especially in Max [Franklin] and [Tim] Noack. I love to see that, and it's contagious for other guys on the team to see that," Follmer said. "When you play a ranked team, I'd like us to just go out there and play as hard as we can, and those guys are good examples of that. They're going to play hard, and you're going to have to beat them."

Follmer described the freshman class as "quiet and sneaky," in that they were not the highest ranked recruits, but they have embraced the mentality that hard work and composure on the court enables them to compete with any opponent.

"It just comes down to how bad you want it, and those guys have shown that [they want it]," Follmer said. "Who cares who you beat in the 16s and the 14s [high school competitions]? Who are you beating today? These guys are starting to step up and show that they can beat guys that are four-star recruits on other teams."

The Bears will try to adopt this mentality when they return home to face Division II No. 20 Northwest Missouri State at the Tao Tennis Center on March 11-12, at 3 p.m.

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

Swimmers take final opportunity to qualify for NCAAs

SAHIL PATEL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington University men's and women's swimming and diving teams traveled to Chicago for the Midwest Invitational with high hopes of qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

This was the final meet before selections are made.

"It's a meet that's set up to be a last opportunity for people to swim," head coach Brad Shively said. "I wish I could say that it was more than that because it may have been a last meet for some teams in different conferences. However, there were teams like us who were looking for something specific out of most people there. There were more individual swims [in this meet]."

Although only six swimmers made the journey, they took this "last chance" and came back with some stronger qualifying

times, according to junior Chris Valach.

"The main purpose was to get our cuts for NCAAs," Valach said. "We wanted to get another event in for nationals to make sure that we can swim there. The people that went had a good shot of going there."

Valach put himself in good position to qualify in a 200-yard butterfly time trial. His time of 1:51.95 rated as the 14th best in Division III this season.

Senior Kartik Anjur posted the meet's best time in the mixed 50-yard freestyle time trial, finishing in 22.06, and swam a "B" cut in a 200-yard freestyle time trial. That time of 1:41.86 was a season best for him.

"Chris and Kartik did some things that put them in a better position," Shively said. "It's one of those things about swimming that you pretty much know where other people's times are. We don't know where the NCAA line will be. Part of it

is sitting back and crossing your fingers knowing you've already done everything you can do...I know I'd be a little calmer if it was easier."

Junior Karina Stridh also had a strong meet, submitting "B" cuts in the 100-yard backstroke and the 100-yard breaststroke. Her backstroke time of 57.79 was the No. 25 time in Division III, and her breaststroke time of 1:05.92 was ranked 30th.

Other hopefuls for the Bears included senior Micki Duncan and freshmen Grace Murray and Paige VanTassell. Although VanTassell finished second in the 500-yard freestyle and first in the 200-yard freestyle, she and the others did not make any cuts.

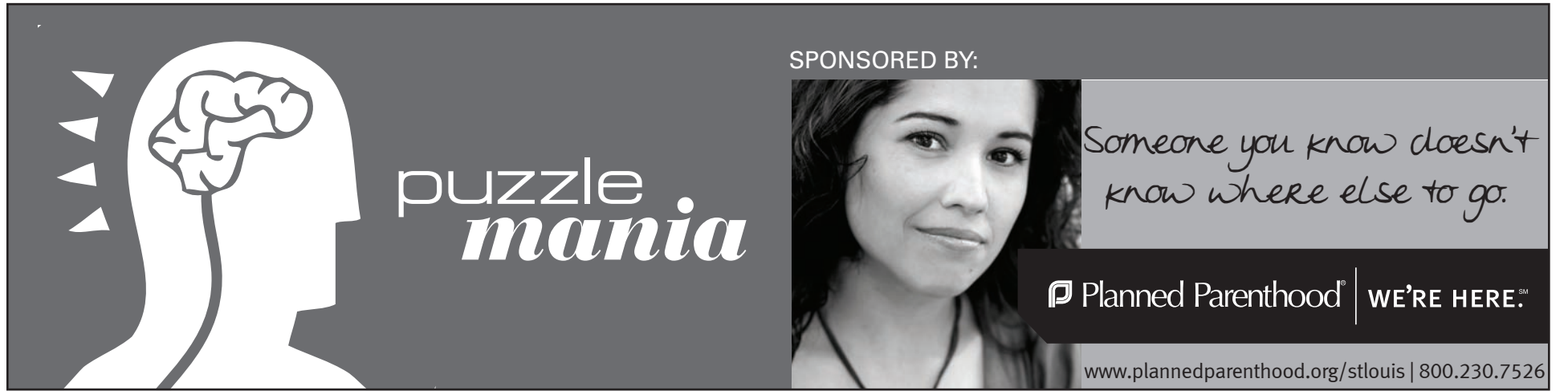
"I didn't get a best time," VanTassell said. "I didn't do that well at conference, so I was hoping to do better this weekend, but that didn't work out. [This offseason], I just want to stay in shape, do a lot of running and cross-training and jump in

the pool once in a while to get ready to go next year."

Official NCAA selections will be announced on March 8, and the 2011 NCAA Championships will be in Knoxville, Tenn. from March 23-26. The teams will use the time off and the week of spring break to train for the meet.

"[We'll do] a little bit of everything to be honest," Shively said. "For some it's more speed work and endurance work and power work. We have to get their legs back in shape, and for some it's fine-tuning. The details have to be set. There are things we have to really nail down to be at our best in a few weeks. I think we're in a good position physically to make the next step."

Write to Sahil Patel at SAHIL.PATEL@STUDLIFE.COM



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topic: *Urban Dictionary*



"Kodak Courage"

Difficulty ★★☆☆☆ (60pts)

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HOW TO PLAY

Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a single continuous spelling path that moves horizontally vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

visit www.Pathem.com

2/28 SOLUTION



"Hiberdating"

Difficulty ★☆☆☆☆ (20pts)

FOR RELEASE MARCH 2, 2011

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Rollicking good time
- 6 "Pipe down!"
- 10 The man's partner, in a Shaw title
- 14 Western neckwear
- 15 Leer at
- 16 "Très ___!"
- 17 Screw-up
- 18 Fuzzy image
- 19 Jedi guru
- 20 Cop's often-unreliable lead
- 23 Apostropheless possessive
- 26 Start of a Latin I conjugation
- 27 Snack for a gecko
- 28 Retailer's private label
- 32 Milne hopper
- 33 Caroline Kennedy, to Maria Shriver
- 34 Three-layer snacks
- 36 Clerical robes
- 37 "The Bachelor" network
- 38 Laundry
- 42 Martial arts-influenced workout
- 45 Chewed like a beaver
- 47 RR stop
- 50 Facetious name for a school cafeteria staple
- 52 Checkers demand
- 54 Glutton
- 55 Lic.-issuing bureau
- 56 "The Gong Show" regular with a paper bag on his head, with "the"
- 60 March Madness org.
- 61 Passed with flying colors
- 62 Up front
- 66 Former U.N. leader Waldheim
- 67 Row of waiters
- 68 Dweebish
- 69 Evian et al.
- 70 WWII carriers

DOWN

- 1 Air gun pellets
- 2 Chaney of horror
- 3 Chicken-king link
- 4 Davenport, e.g.
- 5 West Coast ocean concern
- 6 Mingle (with)
- 7 Like an extremely unpleasant situation
- 8 Inner city blight
- 9 Jane Eyre, e.g.
- 10 Deep fissure
- 11 Tear gas target
- 12 Sawbones
- 13 Shape up
- 21 Harbinger
- 22 Reverse
- 23 Machu Picchu architect
- 24 Home Depot buy
- 25 Cold shoulder
- 29 Right hand: Abbr.
- 30 Mechanical worker
- 31 Circumference part
- 35 Performed in an aquacade
- 37 "Washboard" muscles
- 39 Astounded

Monday's Puzzle Solved

G	R	A	D	O	B	O	E	S	M	E	A	R
A	I	D	E	P	L	A	N	T	E	S	L	A
P	L	A	N	E	T	O	F	T	H	E	A	P
S	E	M	I	T	I	C	B	A	D			
		A	C	C	C	O	O	K	O	F	F	S
B	I	L	E	D	O	C	S	W	E	E	P	
W	O	N	T	H	E	S	E	S	S	E	A	L
R	O	D	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	B	R	A
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T	O	G	A	S	T	M	S	A	G	E	D	
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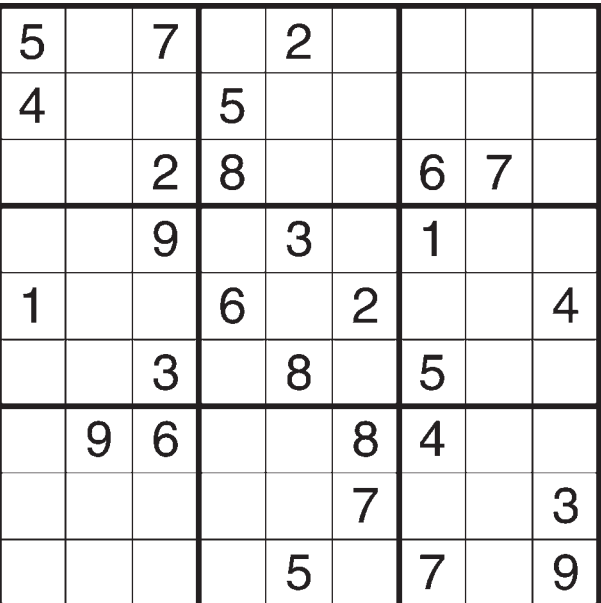
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- 40 Fabric joint
- 41 Rec room centerpiece
- 43 1-Down, e.g.
- 44 Cyclone's most dangerous part
- 45 Harsh
- 46 NFLer who used to play in Yankee Stadium
- 47 Striped stinkers
- 48 Costner/Russo golf flick
- 49 Anatolian Peninsula capital
- 51 Some Horace poems
- 53 Pesky fliers
- 57 "JAG" spin-off
- 58 Penny
- 59 "Moonstruck" Oscar winner
- 63 Memorable time
- 64 Total
- 65 Color, in a way

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: 1 2 3 4



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

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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cadenza

Johnny Depp, Abigail Breslin and Gore Verbinski discuss 'Rango'

KELSEY TIMES
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Cadenza got to participate in a press conference with the director of "Rango," Gore Verbinski, and the film's stars, Johnny Depp and Abigail Breslin. Depp and Verbinski explained how the computer-animated western had its roots in live-action and he discussed how Depp felt when he pretended to be a "six-foot lizard." Look forward to a full review on Friday.

Question: Johnny and Gore, you guys have worked together a few times now, and I was just wondering if you could each

GV: That's exactly the point.

JD: Gore created this sort of atmosphere that was really, truly ludicrous. I mean, just ridiculous. It was like just regional theater at its worst. (Laughs) And somehow, because of—not the idea of motion capture, but emotion capture, you know; certain gestures, body language, movement, something you might have done with your eyes—all those guys, you know, these animators took it and put it in there. So, I mean, it was very strange. I mean, for Harry Dean Stanton to walk up to me one afternoon—because I've known him for a million years—and he

the Santa Claus thing. Do you know what I mean? And waiting for that moment to arrive where you—they—because you're never going to bring it up to them. They're going to arrive and say, "Hey, you've been telling me a lie for my entire life. What are you prepared to do about that?" I mean, it's like that kind of thing. So yeah, I had horrific guilt. And we're now kind of just on the outskirts of that, so I feel okay. But no, these are lies that society tells you—you must—you must keep these lies, you know, going—these kind of myths. Yeah, and I feel guilt about it; I still do.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Left to right: Priscilla (Abigail Breslin), Rango (Johnny Depp), Parsons (Mark "Crash" McCree), and The Mayor (Ned Beatty) star in "Rango."

comment on what you like so much about working with the other.

Gore Verbinski: I like the way he smells. (Laughs)

Johnny Depp: I've been told I smell good. I mean, I don't look like I smell good. (Laughter)

GV: What's great about Johnny is the trust that—you know, neither of us are going to make the other one look like an ass. I have to—he has to trust that at the end of the day, we're not going to use that stuff where we've tried something that didn't work, but we're going to try it because...we've got this sort of pursuit of finding the truly awkward moment, you know, which is—you're only going to get there by not knowing, and sort of venturing into the unknown. And so, I just think he's incredibly brave on top of being incredibly talented. It's like you've got to kind of cross that threshold.

Q: Johnny, you're a very physical actor, and I'm wondering how this process, where you actually acted out the scenes, was different from the other animated films you've done where you had to record your lines in a booth.

JD: I mean, ultimately, it was everything. Though, there were times when you didn't feel that, when you were doing it—you'd rather have been—because you know, well, we're lazy. (Laughter) At least I am. And I'd sort of rather just sit in front of a microphone and do the thing. However—

walks up to me and says, "This is a weird gig, man." (Laughter)

Q: How do [your kids] feel about their dad playing a lizard?

JD: They actually call me the Lizard King. My children—they do. I've forced them to address me like that since they were tykes. (Laughter) No, it was an odd sort of thing, you know. "Where you going, Daddy?" "Ah, I gotta go to work." "What are you doing?" "Well, I'm playing a lizard." "Okay." You know, it'd literally be that kind of thing—you drop your kids off at school, you know, give them a kiss and it was, "Oh, yeah—now I'm gonna go be a lizard." Or, you know, the things that I've done that my kids have been sort of privy to, Willy Wonka and all—it doesn't register. They're far more interested in you know, "Family Guy" or Justin Bieber. (Laughs)

Q: Are you a Belieber?

JD: A Belieber? Wow. I've actually never heard that one. And you know what? Yes. I am a Belieber. (Laughter) I am. And I shall remain so.

Q: Rango's character tells lies to get through the story. Johnny, when have you lied?

JD: I actually tell lies for a living. Exactly. I mean, that's what acting is, really.

GV: That was a lie. (Laughs)

JD: Yeah, I was lying. I'm sorry. Yeah, there are certain—I mean, you know, I felt having kids and stuff like that, I had horrific guilt for many years, playing along with

Abigail Breslin: Santa's not real?

(Laughter)

JD: No, no! He is. He is.

AB: Thank God.

Q: In the past you've said that you've always chosen characters that you had a personal connection with. What's your connection with this character?

JD: You mean a lizard. Yeah. I always had an affinity for lizards; I've always felt somewhat close to them. They're reptiles. I'm feeling somewhat reptilian myself at times. When we were doing "Pirates" one, two and three, there were times when Jack Sparrow had to run—there was this very specific run that I wanted. And it was from seeing this footage of a lizard running across the water. And it was like the strangest thing I've ever seen. And so I said, "Gore, he's got to be the lizard running across the water," and he's like, "Oh, yeah, absolutely. Okay, it's time to...you know, let's..."

GV: Get in touch with the lizard.

JD: Get—yeah, get in touch with the lizard. And we did it. So I actually think that Rango was somehow planted in Gore's brain from that run, from that lizard run, you know. And when he actually called me and said, "I want you to play a lizard," I thought, "Well, God, I'm halfway there."

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ALBUM REVIEW

'21' Adele



for fans of

Florence and the Machine, Amy Winehouse, Norah Jones

singles to download

'Someone Like You,' 'One & Only,'
'Set fire to the Rain'

GEORGIE MORVIS
CADENZA REPORTER

After winning Best New Artist at the Grammys and touring the world, Adele has returned to grace the radio waves and prove that mainstream music can be quality, too. The singer stretches her voice to new lengths, and she explores her defiant side with "Set Fire to Rain" and "One & Only," two tracks where her voice becomes almost hoarse yet no less appealing. This display of raw emotion is normal for Adele. Some of the songs would be mediocre with anyone else singing them, but sometimes forgettable lyrics are worth enduring just to hear the vocal acrobatics she performs.

However, on the best track, "Someone Like You," Adele's lyrics are instant classics—so much so that it sounds like a cover at first listen. It is catchy without being grating; it's a track that makes you want to sing along. And the only thing better than "Someone Like You" is a live performance of the song. Adele's voice conveys melancholy, regret and hope all at once. This is not a diva crying out for attention because of some manufactured tragedy. This is a singer-songwriter with a voice for the ages working through her pain and sorrow. And it's a privilege for us to join her in that journey.

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Psychonauts offers gamers unique chance to journey through brain

MICHAEL YANG
VIDEO GAMES EDITOR

"Psychonauts" is the of the most profoundly creative games you've never played. For those who have experienced the joys of sticking doors onto people's foreheads, and for those who haven't, join me in a look back at Double Fine Production's first title.

The game tells the story of Razputin "Raz" Aquato, a young psychic who sneaks into a camp that trains kids with similar powers to become secret agents—psychonauts. During his training, Raz discovers the machinations of Dr. Loboto D.D.S., who has been lobotomizing the camp's attendees by making them sneeze out their brains. Our begoggled hero then journeys into other people's minds, battling their inner demons in order to reclaim his friends' brains.

Don't let all this talk of lobotomies get you down, because "Psychonauts" is a comedy through and through. It's one of the funniest games I've ever played, in large part due to its charming cast of characters, and the excellent voice acting that brings them to life. Mikhail, who speaks with a comically thick Russian accent, constantly questions Raz about a "giant, hairless bear," while the mild-mannered Dogen, who

wears a tinfoil cap to contain his raw psychic power, can be overheard chatting with squirrels: "I could never do that. I could never...kill everyone."

It wasn't just the characters that are wonderfully weird; everything about "Psychonauts" oozes imagination, vision, and hallucinogenic drugs. Case in point: Raz summons the help of his mentor by waving bacon in the air, prompting the head of Agent Cruller to burst out of Raz's ear with a loud POP. And then there are the pyrokinetic cougars, anthropomorphic tiger luchadores and the meat circus.

The same sense of whimsy permeates every single inch of the game, including the brilliant level design. Later on, Raz must enter the mind of an oversized mutant lungfish. Though it towers over Raz in reality, he appears in the fish's mind as a giant, Godzilla-sized version of himself, and so begins the assault of Japanese monster flick clichés. Dubbed "Goggalar" by Lungfishopolis' tiny fishy citizens, Raz scales skyscrapers, swats at tiny missiles, and even takes on an entire miniature navy. The level ends in the only way it can, with Goggalar squaring off against a similarly oversized costumed villain.

And that's just one level. The amount of creativity poured into each world is mind-

boggling, but still more impressive is the fact that each level is just as unique as the last. Later on, Raz must help a descendant of Napoleon deal with his schizophrenia—the other resident personality being the little general himself—by winning a board game. Naturally, the only way to do this is for Raz to shrink to the size of the pieces, run around the board and move them into place using telekinesis. If that's not inspired, I don't know what is.

"Psychonauts" is crafted from pure, crystallized, empirical, elemental joy, which is why I'm all the more crushed that the game sold so poorly at launch. It's like the equivalent of a lone Pixar movie poking out from the unstoppable wave of Michael Bay features—and then selling a total of ten tickets. Tim Schafer and Double Fine created a game that was impossibly charming and impossibly smart, but also just plain impossible to sell to a market accustomed to big-budget sequels. "Psychonauts" has since become a common example of a game that failed for being too different, and to this day, one of my biggest gaming regrets is not buying "Psychonauts" when it was first released.

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DOUBLE FINE PRODUCTIONS

I sense a contest!

Luckily for you, our deep, deep guilt for not buying "Psychonauts" at its launch is your gain, because we want to enable everybody and their mother to play "Psychonauts." That's why we're giving away two copies of the PC version of the game (DRM-free from Good Old Games) to the winners of a little contest. Just send your sexiest photo of you in goggles to cadenza@studlife.com, and we'll post our favorites online and mail out codes to the winners on Monday.