

'RANGO'  
CADERNZA, PAGE 6



MARDI GRAS  
SCENE, PAGE 8



OBSEVATORY  
SCENE, PAGE 8

# Student Life

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

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## Dan Senor speaks about Israel's economic success

*Investor highlights leadership, potential for innovation*

BECKY PRAGER  
STAFF REPORTER

An expert on the Israeli economy explained how the small nation has grown into a leading economic power as part of the Assembly Series.

Dan Senor, co-author of the bestseller "Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" and adjunct senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, spoke Thursday in Graham Chapel.

Senor explained Israel's unique culture and dedication to leadership, innovation and determination. He argued that these qualities contributed to Israel's economic success in entrepreneurship and innovation.

The paradox, explained Senor, is that Israel was able to achieve economic prosperity in spite of the many obstacles it faced.

"This is a country surrounded by adversaries, basically in a state of war since it's been founded, with barely any natural resources, isolated in its region, a little [more than] 60 years old and smaller than the state of New Jersey,"



JOSH GOLDMAN | STUDENT LIFE

Dan Senor, co-author of the bestseller "Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle," addresses the Washington University community Thursday in Graham Chapel. Senor spoke about the paradox of Israel's prosperity despite the many obstacles it has faced.

Senor said,

With so little to work with, Senor said that Israel was forced to resort to an export economy, which is hard to do when 21 of the 23 nations in its vicinity boycott its economy.

Israel has almost no access to the market and investment capital of the oil-rich Arab world.

Despite these challenges, Israel has more companies in NASDAQ than all of Europe combined and ranks third after the U.S. and China. In 2008, it had more than twice the global venture capital of the U.S., 30 times that of Europe and 80 times that of China.

SEE SENOR, PAGE 3

## Shooting suspect found guilty

MICHELLE MERLIN  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

The man who shot a policeman just outside of Starbucks on the Delmar Loop two years ago was found guilty of first-degree murder and armed criminal action, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

The shooter, Todd Shepard, 43, received the verdict on Thursday for the crime committed in Oct., 2008.

The case now moves into

the penalty phase. Prosecuting Attorney Robert P. McCulloch is seeking the death penalty.

Shepard testified that he shot University City Police Sgt. Michael King, who was a graduate of Washington University, on purpose as part of a plan to start an anti-government revolution.

According to the Post-Dispatch, Shepard said his actions were motivated in part by his history. In 2001, his girlfriend was shot and killed by a St. Louis County police

officer.

Shepard recalled the moment of the shooting at his trial, the Post-Dispatch reported.

King had been sitting in his police cruiser on the corner of Leland Avenue and Delmar Boulevard.

Shepard's testimony revealed that he had past drug arrests and is serving a 23-year federal sentence.

Write to Michelle Merlin at  
**MICHELLE MERLIN@  
STUDLIFE.COM**

## Student government announced for 2011-2012

MICHELLE MERLIN  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

### UP ADMINISTRATION



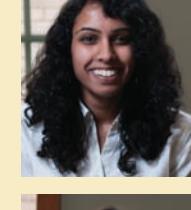
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**Amanda Signorelli**  
Vice President of Public  
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Sophomore

Student Union election results from this week's election were announced Wednesday evening.

The UP executive slate, which ran uncontested, won with more than 96 percent of the vote. The slate, headed by President-elect John Harrison York, the current vice president of programming, will take office on March 31.

Foremost on the slate's agenda is creating next year's budget through a collaborative process with other SU members and student groups.

"I'm very excited to go ahead and start with the new position to engage the student body," York, a junior, said. "As we begin to plan the general budget, [Vice President of Finance-elect] Cody Katz will be seeking a lot of input in the coming month."

The UP slate's platform focuses on creating opportunities for students to co-program, volunteer and get off campus.

The slate also hopes to finalize a complete campus calendar using live@edu, an undertaking that no administration has yet

SEE GOVERNMENT, PAGE 3

## More students choosing to go Greek

ALLYSON SCHER  
STAFF REPORTER

activities or if there is actually an increase in the desire to join fraternity life," Wallace said.

Overall, members of the Greek community at the University believe that students are genuinely interested in becoming part of Greek life.

"It's got to be something in the mentality of it all," said junior Sam Barnes, external vice president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC). "The [rush] activities at Wash. U. have not really changed each year as far as I know."

According to Wallace, IFC is considering the addition of another fraternity in response to increased interest in Greek life.

Wallace emphasized that this may not be a viable option to consider, primarily due to lack of housing space, but it is still one that must be considered in the future.

IFC plans to create a survey investigating the growth of interest in fraternities in the next few weeks.

Fraternity members are attempting to emphasize values

SEE GREEK, PAGE 3

## WU law clinic helps to fight proposed coal ash landfill

CHLOE ROSENBERG  
NEWS EDITOR

The Washington University community has taken a leading role in opposition to the creation of a coal ash landfill in Labadie, Mo.

The Washington University Law School's Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic is representing the Labadie Environmental Organization (LEO) in its fight against construction of the landfill by Ameren, the primary electricity supplier in the region.

Students are also involved through groups like Green

Action and have been lobbying, turning out to public hearings, petitioning and giving testimony against the landfill.

The landfill would collect coal ash from Ameren's Labadie plant. Experts fear that the coal ash could enter the water supply if there is heavy flooding, since the landfill is slated to be built on a flood plain.

A 2010 report by Earth and Planetary Sciences professor Robert Criss found that there have been frequent heavy floods in the lower portion of the Missouri River, where the landfill has been proposed, since 1929. "They are concerned that it

is not a safe site to place this waste and that it would have a detrimental effect on their community," said Maxine Lipiles, co-director of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic and Senior Lecturer in the law school.

Ameren has plans to prevent this water contamination and argues that the coal ash landfill would not cause any environmental damage.

The company plans to build a wall around the landfill to prevent flood water—up to three feet more than resulted from the

SEE COAL, PAGE 3



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## WEATHER FORECAST

**FRIDAY 4**

THUNDERSTORMS

63 / 42



**SATURDAY 5**

RAIN / SNOW SHOWERS

42 / 29



**SUNDAY 6**

MOSTLY SUNNY

47 / 33



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

“When you wake up in the morning and don't know if you'll make it out of the coffee shop alive, you have a completely different perspective when it comes to economic obstacles.”

— Dan Senor, co-author of the bestseller “Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle,” on Israel's economic growth.

## POLICE BEAT

■ March 1, 2011

Larceny: At 11 p.m., a complaint reported a student shoplifting in the Campus Bookstore, and the student was identified. The disposition was cleared by JA Referral.

## For the record

In Wednesday's article “Students struggle to hear sirens during tornado warning,” it was reported that Washington University will test its tornado sirens on Monday at approximately 12:05 p.m. These sirens are maintained by St. Louis County and are tested the first Monday of every month at 11 a.m. The University will test its WUSTLAlerts system Wednesday at approximately 12:05 p.m. Student Life regrets the error.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**FRIDAY 4**

**DUC 'N' Donuts**

*DUC, Tisch Commons, 9 a.m.*

The first Friday of each month classes are in session, the Danforth University Center offers free donuts, coffee and information to passers by on the way to class, open to University community only.

**4th Annual Kemper Presents Concert Series**

*Kemper Art Museum, 6 p.m.*

This series is designed to showcase the talents and diversity of notable contemporary St. Louis musicians. Friday's show will feature the Pernikoff Brothers and will offer free refreshments.

**'A Midsummer Night's Dream'**

*Edison Theatre, Mallinckrodt Center, 8 p.m.*

Director Henry Schvey and the Performing Arts Department present the Shakespeare classic (Shows on March 4, 5 and 6). Tickets cost \$10 for members of the Washington University community.

**SATURDAY 5**

**Free Vehicle Inspection Service**

*Outside of Alumni House, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Free inspections of tire pressure, fluid levels, wipers and headlights.

**Department of Music, Senior Voice Recital**

*Graham Chapel, 6 p.m.*

A performance entitled “For All Seasons” will feature Jennifer Klauder, with Sandra Geary on piano. The recital is free and open to the public.

**Relay For Life**

*Francis Field, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. (March 5-6)*

This overnight event is the signature fundraiser of the American Cancer Society. Guest admission is \$10. The event will be held in the Athletic Complex in the event of rain.

**Edison Theatre Ovations Series**

*560 Music Center, 8 p.m.*

This show will feature one of today's leading traditional Irish ensembles, Danu, which mixes ancient Irish music with contemporary works. Tickets cost \$25 for Washington University faculty and staff and \$20 for children and students.

**SUNDAY 6**

**'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Matinee**

*Edison Theatre, Mallinckrodt Center, 2 p.m.*

**17th Annual International Festival**

*560 Music Center, 5 p.m.*

The festival, called “One Community, A World of Traditions,” will feature international food tasting and a variety of student cultural performances. Admission is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

## Population decline in St. Louis to have minimal effects on WU grads

**SADIE SMECK**  
NEWS EDITOR

A recent release of 2010 census data showed that the population in St. Louis City had decreased by about 8 percent over the past decade.

The figures indicate a total population of 319,294 people, a near 30,000 person decrease from the 2000 census and a reduction by more than half since the 1950s.

While this decline may cause some turbulence in the already struggling local economy, the demographic change is unlikely to significantly affect most Washington University graduates, most of whom seek jobs outside of the St. Louis region.

“The job market for Washington University graduates is usually national,” economics professor Steven Fazzari said. “It's pretty unusual to find a student who actually gets a job here in St. Louis. Even if you were looking at jobs locally, the declines in the city are being somewhat offset by growth in the county.”

In fact, despite the decline in the population of St. Louis City, the total population of Missouri has risen by 7 percent from the last census, up 27 percent in places like St. Charles County. St. Louis County, which does not include St. Louis City, lost about 2 percent of its population.

Even in these instances, the growth rate has

slowed from the 2000 census, which showed a state population increase of 13 percent from 1990. This trend reflects the current economic downturn, which has been felt across the nation.

According to Fazzari, the dip in population will likely have some consequences for the local economy in the longer term, which could eventually affect the University.

“There's maybe longer term issues about quality of life,” he said. “If you have a declining core of a major metropolitan area, that might make the area less attractive over the long term, so that might make it more difficult to attract business here, and ultimately might not be such a good thing for the University.”

Overall, he said, population decline is not necessarily a negative thing for all areas, especially in younger parts of town such as the new urban lofts in the Washington Avenue area.

Jim Beirne, Director of External Relations at the Career Center, agreed that he does not consider the census statistics to be meaningfully correlated to student job placement rates in recent years.

“The statistics talk about the city of St. Louis, which is a portion of the St. Louis region, and we still see strong recruiters based in the city itself,” Beirne said. “They are still coming and recruiting, in some cases more than they ever have. What I do see is

ongoing growth around the city of St. Louis. Corporations, organizations and nonprofits are trying to hire more and more of our students.”

Beirne attributes this lack of correlation, in part, to the fact that most Washington University graduates seek employment outside of the St. Louis area.

Many students do, however, choose to stay in St. Louis for summer internships.

Still, Beirne does not detect any hurdles in securing employment, especially, he said, as Washington University's name recognition and the positive reputation of its students grow.

“More companies are saying they didn't realize [the University] was so good, and as companies, organizations and nonprofits get to know us better, we're seeing more opportunities developing for our students,” he said.

Although Washington University students are unlikely to feel the economic effects of population decline, the state will see political effects.

As a consequence of slow growth in Missouri, the state has lost one congressional seat, which means that the congressional districts will be redrawn before the 2012 elections.

Write to Sadie Smeck at  
[SADIE.SMECK@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:SADIE.SMECK@STUDLIFE.COM)

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

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## SEÑOR FROM PAGE 1

West can learn from?"

Senor also cited important role of the immigrant in the growing Israeli economy.

Israel, explained Senor, is a land of immigrants. More than 70 nationalities are represented there, and two out of three Israelis are an immigrant or the child or grandchild of an immigrant.

"When you're a country that's so dependent on exports, having connectivity to all these networks around the world, with all these people on top of each other in an economic cluster—it's like a turbo-charge to the economy," Senor said.

Senor added that many of the economic success stories coming out of Israel started with an immigrant entrepreneur.

Senor also explained the role of the

military in Israel's economic success. Almost every Israeli goes through military training. Senor said that the leadership training experience that these young Israelis get while in the Israel Defense Forces is crucial to their later success in the business world.

The mentality in the military, and in the country itself, is never to let obstacles stand in your way and to try every solution possible, according to Senor.

"Their innovation comes from this uninhibited culture of problem-solving," Senor said.

He gave the example of a coffee shop in Israel where a friend stops every morning, even though that shop had been blown up twice by suicide bombers in the past.

"When you wake up in the morning and don't know if you'll make it out of the coffee shop alive, you have a completely different perspective when it comes to economic obstacles," Senor said.

The event was organized by Washington University Students for Israel and co-sponsored by Jewish Student Union, Chabad Student Association, St. Louis Hillel at Washington University, Delta Sigma Pi, the Olin Business School and groups from greater St. Louis.

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

## COAL FROM PAGE 1

1993 floods—from coming in contact with the coal ash.

Mike Menne, Ameren's Vice President of Environmental Services, said that using the landfill would actually be better than the current system of wet storage, in which the company dumps coal residue into ash ponds where the coal ash sinks to the bottom.

"We consider the design of the new facility to be state of the art," Menne said. "This facility is far more protective of public health and the environment. It is an improvement."

According to Menne, wet storage poses a greater risk than the coal ash landfill, in which the coal ash would be compressed into a concrete-like material, difficult for floodwater to wash away.

"We don't think there is the potential for

this to get downstream, but even if there is, there would be no risk to the drinking water supplies," Menne said.

He says that the new landfill will meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Senior and former Green Action President Peter Murray said he was impressed by the involvement of the student body and the law school in this issue.

"I think it's a really good thing that members of the law school are getting involved [in] this. It also speaks measures of the integrity of the student body that we're concerned with the health of the region and that we're not just concerned with what is cheapest or what is easiest for Wash. U.," said Murray.

According to Murray, the landfill controversy should be a sign that the University

should change its energy habits.

"As a university that is dependent on coal, we are in many ways responsible for this landfill being put in, so Wash. U. needs to seriously evaluate our energy choices because if we continue to rely on coal, things like Labadie will only continue to happen," he said.

Franklin County, where the landfill would be located, does not currently permit landfills. Before Ameren can build the landfill, it will need the county to change its zoning requirements.

If such an ordinance is passed, Ameren hopes to open the landfill in 2014.

Ameren is a major gas and electricity provider for Missouri and Illinois.

Write to Chloe Rosenberg at  
CHLOE.ROSENBERG@STUDLIFE.COM

## GOVERNMENT FROM PAGE 1

done successfully.

York hopes to reach people even outside of SU.

"For the average student, an e-mail blast doesn't have a very meaningful impact, so a lot of it is going to be personal outreach to students," York said.

He plans on hosting several focus groups throughout the year for students to discuss issues of concern. York hopes that every student will feel welcome at these meetings.

Senior Class Council was the only contested race. Pup N' Suds, a slate headed

by Alex Cooper, beat out incumbent slate Mission Accomplished by about 10 percent of the vote for every position.

All of the other proposed class council slates won.

Nearly one third of the undergraduate student body voted in the elections on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Given the fact that exec was not contested, I was pleased to see such a good turnout," York said.

Write to Michelle Merlin at  
MICHELLE.MERLIN@STUDLIFE.COM

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## GREEK FROM PAGE 1

that students often overlook when evaluating Greek life, combating stereotypes that have come from films portraying college life.

"Looking at fraternities in general as well as the scope of what we personally have tried to do with rush over the past few years—we are separating ourselves from the stereotype of fraternities and what is portrayed in 'Animal House,'" junior Zachary Cupkovic, recruitment chairman for Sigma Alpha Epsilon said.

Students outside of Greek life believe that fraternities on campus are doing a successful job building up positive images.

"Greek life is a way for a lot of people to get involved and meet new people," freshman Jeremy Davis said. "I realized that I didn't need to go Greek to make other friends, but I do see why a lot of my friends joined. I'm definitely not anti-Greek, I just am doing a lot of other things and didn't need it."

"I know Wash. U. is not as bad as other campuses. I think that it's more toward the friendship side than the 'Animal House' side at Wash. U.," junior Sunjoo Cho said.

Greek life members at the University have been working hard to create this positive image.

"We have been emphasizing more and more things that you experience in an organization that differs from things you experience in a classroom: leadership opportunities that help you grow and plan, participation in a working organization before entering a workplace and the ability to plan and carry out events of your own," Barnes said. "It's just a different type of education."

Write to Allyson Scher at  
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# forum

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Plan for Halal food a step forward

**W**ashington University Dining Services is currently planning to implement a Halal foods program. If implemented, Halal options will first be offered in the Village and Bear's Den, with plans to expand the options across campus later.

The University's introduction of Halal foods should be seen as a major step forward in providing dining options for those on a restricted diet of any kind, whether for religious, cultural or health reasons. Wash. U. currently offers vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and kosher offerings, among others, and in this respect it is a commendable food service provider for those with special dietary needs. Between 70 and 100 people have

requested halal foods, and this population cannot go unnoticed. With so many options available for kosher dining, we believe that introducing Halal options on-campus is long overdue.

It is understandable that the University has not offered Halal foods up until now. The group of people who currently benefit from kosher foods is few in number, and there are additional costs associated with implementing Halal Foods, just as there are with kosher foods. Specifically, Dining Services would have to find a new, Halal-certified source of meat, which could be costly. Still, Dining Services does not anticipate a major increase in cost, and while the number of students that would benefit from Halal Foods is small, the University is acting

properly in accommodating their needs.

On a progressive campus such as that of Wash. U., it is important that we extend our notions of tolerance and acceptance to all aspects of one's lifestyle. For example, to be a vegetarian is not just to avoid eating meat, but to embrace a conscious lifestyle that takes into account ethical questions and demands. While we may not all agree with vegetarianism, we still support the right to be vegetarian for those who choose to do so, and the University provides them with dining options to facilitate these choices.

More often than not, however, we forget that religious restrictions on dining constitute just as much of a conscious lifestyle, and observing religious customs

on dining is part of a larger way of living and thinking. As students, we should respect the decisions of others to engage in any kind of decision involving food, and part of this respect involves ensuring that such options are available for those who choose to observe Halal regulations.

Ultimately, the University and Bon Appétit should be praised for the expected new Halal options. Accommodating the needs of observant Muslim students only increases our level of awareness of differing lifestyles on campus, and while the number of people requesting Halal is comparatively small, the University ought to do so on principle alone. After all, Wash. U. prides itself on being a welcoming community.

### The temptation of tobacco



KATE OBERG | STUDENT LIFE

**MATTHEW CURTIS**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

I started smoking cigarettes a year and a half ago. I can't remember why, though I suspect it had something to do with looking cool—it was very rebellious and dangerous to smoke cigarettes after you graduated from high school.

Quitting a year later was one of the most painful things I've ever done. I had my fun, enjoyed my five minute buzzes—the dirty little secret about cigarettes that somehow never gets told—and had grown tired of the pain in my throat, the financial drain, the cravings, wearing a coat that reeked of old smoke, and three fingers of my right hand that always smelled like tobacco no matter how hard I washed them.

So I quit. On May 17, I smoked what I swore was my last cigarette for three months and embarked on a few weeks of withdrawal. It kept me up at night. It had me staring at drug stores, wishing that I could walk in and buy a pack of Marlboro Reds. But I stuck with it, and I eventually got over my addiction. My friends were

pleased, and the smokers who had tried and failed to quit were particularly impressed.

It's been over six months since I inhaled my last cancerous cloud of smoke, but I'm still not entirely over it. I think about smoking every day. I can't walk past Forsyth without feeling a twinge of sadness over having given up that vice, and I don't know how long it will be until I'm unfazed.

Perhaps I'm weaker than most, but it would be easy to slip into my old habits.

Non-smokers don't fully understand how terrible the tobacco industry is. The archaic image of rich businessmen profiting off a 50 percent mortality rate has been so drilled into our minds that it is difficult to raise emotions on the issue. Non-smokers, if they care about the plight of their smoking brethren, are more likely to view them with derision than with pity. My friends were always unconcerned by my smoking and have similar feelings toward a friend who has taken up dipping. Though this is a highly effective means of burning holes in one's lip and contracting mouth cancer, I feel like the only one who has made any serious effort to convince him to stop.

Tobacco is a terrible product. It is addictive, stigmatized, has undesirable short-term effects, and decades down the road, has the unfortunate tendency to cause death. The morality of marketing it to the American public aside, it should be banned outright. I take to the hard Right on nearly every economic issue from health care to tax cuts, but if it were my decision, tobacco would be illegal tomorrow.

Most smokers begin when they're young, and every addict I've talked to who recognizes their addiction regrets the decision. None of us considered the consequences of even a year of smoking. I still remember standing in front of Beaumont, jokingly explaining to someone that by the time cancer became a reality in my life—as I claimed I knew it would, despite never really believing this—there would be a magic pill to deal with the inconvenience.

It may well be the smoker's choice to go to the grave at an early age, but I have yet to meet the person who intelligently weighed the pros and cons of tobacco before proceeding to addict himself. Most smokers at the outset impulsively shove the long-term

consequences to the backs of their minds, but if tobacco enjoyed the same legal status and availability as other controlled substances, it would not be nearly as prolific. I, at least, would never have become as involved with it as I did.

Tobacco is unique among addictive drugs in that not only does it make the user chemically dependent but also causes premature death. Smokers do not make informed decisions when they adopt the drug, carelessly ignoring every factor other than immediate gratification. Its illegality would be to the advantage of millions; the benefits of a short buzz dwindle in comparison to the health hazards. Had tobacco been illegal when I started smoking, I never would have begun. The version of me that spent much of the summer all but locking himself in his room to avoid temptation would have appreciated the decision.

Matthew Curtis is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. Write to Matthew at MATTHEW.CURTIS@STUDLIFE.COM

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# Take a cue from history: Stand up for unions

**JUSTIN GOAD**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

**H**ere we go again. In the past few months, the winds of change have swept over the Middle East and parts of Europe in ways never before seen. The storm moved across lands ruled by tyrants for generations; the sounds were thunderous with despair, yet somehow peaceful with the hope of a new tomorrow.

People from all over these lands came together and shouted that enough was enough. Dictators were removed, and troubled people tasted freedom for the first time. The movement spread like wildfire, and most of these revolutions were done with almost no violence and with very little opposition. That is, until it reached Libya.

The people of Libya want the same thing as the Egyptians: freedom. They'll get it. That tired, crazy dictator will eventually lose. He seems to be putting up a fight for whatever reason, but he'll lose. When people truly set aside their differences and join together for one cause,

their demands become unstoppable. Kings have been dethroned, governments toppled and tyrants overrun—all because the people have had enough and have come together. They started off as individuals with needs and hopes; they formed a union against oppression. People learned to fight back.

With all of this in the Middle East, a different type of movement is sweeping over the United States, a movement that's doing the opposite. It was quiet; it snuck right in behind us. This one was an attempt to rid America of its organized labor, more commonly known as union busting.

Over a hundred years ago, Americans were tired of being poor. They were tired of horrible working conditions. They were tired of being mistreated. The fight was between the rich and the working poor, or as Upton Sinclair called them, "the wage slaves." Finally, those on the bottom demanded change. It wasn't easy in the beginning. Some were blacklisted because they wanted benefits and child labor laws. The despised businesses tricked immigrants to work 12-hour shifts, six days a week, just to replace workers who had

thought about unionizing. Then there were workers who were killed because they couldn't take the terrible working conditions in coal mines anymore. Big businesses weren't very nice in those days; they sometimes broke up union meetings with hired thugs, labeling unionizers as "socialists" or "un-American."

Eventually the government had to step in. Events like the Ludlow Massacre and World War I forced big business to finally accept the labor movement.

Fast-forward to a few years ago, and you'll begin to see history repeating itself. The economy has been in bad shape since 2007, and there's little relief in sight. People were fired, homes were lost and the booming economy crashed like a glass smashing against the floor. People were scared, and they had the right to be.

And while everyone pointed fingers, big business sat in the back of the room and laughed. Their time had returned; this new economy would allow them to outsource any job that paid well. They could finally stop paying benefits for insurance and pensions. The government would bail them out if they needed; they were too big to fail. All the while, they sat and plotted

against organized labor.

Whether you believe in unions or not is your opinion, but we need them. We would be lost without them. Lower wages, fewer paid holidays and no benefits or worker's rights. Unions, like everything, need to evolve and become more flexible to help both workers and companies. I feel like I can understand why they're so leery on negotiating, however: If unions give in to help a company survive in these hard economic times, that company might not give back when the times get better.

Don't believe me? Follow what's happening in Wisconsin. Watch what they lose because the state is broke. See if in a few years, when the state recovers, they get anything back. I doubt they will. The strange thing is, there will be another bad economy some day, and they'll ask for us to give back. If we stand up now for what we've worked for, then hopefully in the future we won't look around and think, "Here we go again."

Justin Goad is a student in the University College. Write to Justin at JUSTIN.GOAD@STUDLIFE.COM

## The walkout: An undermining of our democratic institutions?

**MAX HAMILTON**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

**T**ough many of those involved in either social movement would cringe at the comparison, numerous parallels exist between the current labor protests over collective bargaining in Wisconsin and the Tea Party. Each movement has begun, at least partly, in reaction to attempted political decisions by the party in power to alter the status quo of domestic American politics.

In the Tea Party's case, health care reform proposed by the Democrats served as the catalyst of the movement; for the Wisconsin protesters, it was Gov. Scott Walker's decision to curtail the rights of union members to bargain collectively. Each has denounced the government turning its back on "Main Street" in favor of special interests, and each has expressed this discontent through mass protests designed specifically to get the attention of lawmakers.

In addition to popular opposition, however, a cornerstone of the movement against health care reform was the Republican ability to delay its passage through the controversial use of obstructionist parliamentary tactics by those in Congress, namely the filibuster. For months, a group of exactly 40 Republicans in the Senate were able to block debate on health care legislation proposed by Democrats, and Democrats in turn failed to draw one Republican senator to vote for their bill.

If "filibuster" was the despised word of the Left during 2009, the Right has found its equal in "walkout" for 2011. The "walkout" refers to the tactic used by Democratic senators in the minority in Wisconsin to leave the legislature (and the state) and deprive the body of the quorum of twenty necessary to make budget-related law. With 14 Democratic senators currently in Illinois and Governor Walker unwilling to budge on his demands, actual political debate on the issue has ground to a virtual halt.

This trend has also spread to Indiana, where Governor Mitch Daniels attempted to pass legislation similar to that of Governor Walker, only to have almost all of the Democratic legislators in his state employ the same tactics to deprive the body of a quorum. In the case of Indiana, the Democrats were successful: Daniels quickly tabled the collective bargaining legislation in return for Democrats returning to the state. Thus far in Wisconsin, neither side is blinking.

Though debate about the merits of specific legislation is one thing, debate over the abuse of parliamentary procedure is something

different altogether. I side with the protesters over the rights of union workers to bargain collectively, and regard this as a majority view: Recent polls show that more than 60 percent of Americans are in favor of the Wisconsin public sector employees keeping their ability to bargain collectively. Clearly, Governor Walker is culpable in the current impasse due to his refusal to compromise.

At a certain point, however, it is necessary to examine the cost of the walkouts. Quorums were not established to grind lawmaking to a virtual standstill whenever those in the legislative minority disagree, just as the filibuster was not intended to make 60 votes necessary to pass any piece of legislation in the Senate. As history proves, once these parliamentary rules are abused once, their abuse becomes all the more commonplace in politics.

This is not to say that the protests themselves are unhealthy: indeed, they are necessary to communicate to a stubborn governor just what is at stake for thousands of his constituents. What I am suggesting, however, is that as a country we cannot allow for the mentality that it is okay to halt debate when the outcome is not in your favor and bring our political system to a point of gridlock.

Currently, we live in a democracy where it is a big deal if more than half of those eligible to vote participate in elections. One of the key reasons that those who do not participate refrain from voting is the general notion that the U.S. government is ineffective in addressing the concerns of citizens: Much of this disillusionment is caused by gridlock. Every time a Republican senator filibusters an important bill that they disagree with, every time a Democratic legislator drives to Illinois to block Republicans from voting on the budget and every time a majority and a minority refuse to reach a compromise, they exacerbate this gridlock and make our government less likely to accomplish anything at all.

Hopefully, the current Wisconsin debacle will drive more people to express themselves through the polls; what it will not do, however, is provide for a productive legislative session. Some of the blame falls on Governor Walker's failure to compromise; some of it also falls on the Democrats who skipped town. Either way, the big loser in the scenario where political rules are abused is the government, and, in a democracy, that also means the American people.

Max Hamilton is a junior in Arts & Sciences. Write to Max at MHAMILTON@WUSTL.EDU

## The Obama doctrine

**EVE SAMBORN**  
FORUM EDITOR

**I**n response to the current tumult in the Middle East, there has been widespread speculation amongst pundits and politicos that the Obama administration will soon announce a new foreign policy doctrine outlining the United States' philosophy in regards to promoting democracy abroad.

Doctrines are the Oscars of foreign policy; they're exciting and attention-grabbing, ambitious in their attempt to showcase serious intellectualism and creative thinking and—when done correctly—make great fodder for the history books. And since we, as the next generation of citizens and policymakers, will be tasked with managing the resulting spin from this potential new doctrine, we should show a bit more interest and enthusiasm in the topic than James Franco did Sunday night (Slight digression: Seriously? Who gets bored hosting the Oscars?).

In order for a new doctrine to be successful, it must effectively balance two crucial and sometimes contradictory priorities—the practical need for Middle Eastern allies in fighting terrorism and countering the influence of Islamic fundamentalism, and the moral need to support those who seek the same political rights that we cherish at home. The first without the second would be hypocritical; the second without the first would be too dangerously idealistic.

The doctrine President Obama should establish, therefore, is one of locally-initiated engagement. As we have seen in Iraq, forcibly removing authoritarian regimes entails a cost in lives and dollars that we cannot afford. Absent regime change, most measures we could take to preemptively spark democratic reform would damage our relationships with allies in a region that is vital to U.S. interests. Where local pro-democracy movements exist, however, the U.S. should exercise the fullest range of its moral authority to support reformers. This could include statements and speeches that express solidarity with the dissenters, private negotiations with authoritarian leaders, technological assistance, economic sanctions when dictators use force against their own people and, where feasible and useful, financial support for organized pro-democracy groups.

Once dictatorial regimes are toppled, the U.S. should offer assistance in writing any necessary constitutions or constitutional amendments and establishing and monitoring free and fair elections.

One of the greatest challenges of

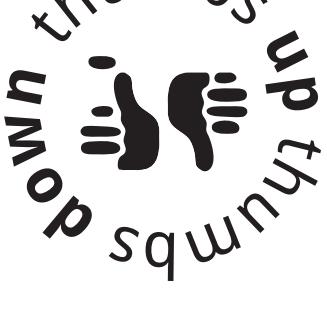
responding to the current wave of protests has been that distancing ourselves from authoritarian allies could discourage other leaders around the region from continuing to cooperate with U.S. aims, out of fear that our support for their governments will evaporate just as quickly. The advantages of a doctrine like this are that it would create a clear expectation of when U.S. allegiances would shift, as well as incentives for authoritarian leaders to initiate reforms before protests erupt.

At the same time, this approach would ensure that America does not land on the wrong side of revolutionary history. Not only is this a moral concern, but we also risk losing significant influence in the region if we come to be viewed as the back brace of dictators. One of the most disturbing headlines to emerge in the past few weeks is that Iran might be the winner, at least for now, of the changes sweeping the region. There is a real danger that secular dictatorships in the Middle East may be replaced with repressive theocracies that are just as callous toward individual rights, as happened in Iran in 1979. Lending support to democratic revolutionary movements is one way to encourage newly-forming governments to remain pro-West. Attempting to assist with the transition to democracy is important for the same reason.

For undemocratic countries that are already hostile toward the U.S.—Iran being the primary example and Libya being a close second—the U.S. should do everything it can, short of military invasion, to support democratic protest movements. This should include harsh economic sanctions. For democratic countries that remain or become reliable U.S. allies, the U.S. should provide foreign aid, both military and economic, to ensure that those countries continue to be bastions of stability in the region. At the moment, Israel is the most stably democratic and most solidly pro-West and it is therefore essential that we provide Israel with the military technology and financial assistance it needs to maintain its military superiority within the region. Cutting our dependence on foreign oil would also better enable us to navigate the new foreign policy challenges we face.

The American promise is a declaration that every person has the right to a voice in his or her own government and destiny. The great challenge of this moment is to make that promise an enduring reality across the globe.

Eve Samborn is a senior in Arts & Sciences. Write to Eve at EVE.SAMBORN@STUDLIFE.COM



Thumbs up to Mardi Gras and Relay for Life this weekend—we love how both of these events bring the community together.

Thumbs up to spring break—we're really ready for it.

Thumbs up to the new multipurpose room in Mallinckrodt. (We love anything new and clean!)



Thumbs down to the 2/3 of the student body who did not vote in Student Union elections.

Thumbs down to getting booted from the library during mid-terms, thanks to a tornado warning.

Thumbs down to the obnoxiously heavy doors in Seigle Hall—we're trying to learn economics, not weightlifting.

# cadenza

## MOVIE REVIEW

### 'Rango'



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**PERCY OLSEN**  
SENIOR CADENZA EDITOR

Johnny Depp's character, the chameleon Rango, is a thespian without an audience, and that's not a reflection of his acting skills. He just happens to be stuck in a terrarium with a palm tree and a wind-up goldfish. But he doesn't let his circumstances deter him from working on his craft. Day and night, he practices skits and emotions, until finally, his patience pays off. Accidentally left in the middle of the highway while his owners move, he is left to his own devices, and so he acts.

When the Hawaiian-shirt-wearing lizard walks into the town of Dirt, he looks about as out of place as water in this parched land. He bumbles through his introductions and back-story. In other words, he does not earn what he gets five minutes later: The whole town is convinced that he's a

gunslinger named Rango, and they immediately make him their next sheriff.

Rango isn't a good actor. He's a bad liar. His desire to act is a hollow plot point thrown in to bring on the action sequences, that's all. In its own defense, the movie seems to realize its weakness and only brings up the fact that Rango is a liar one more time. Still, it's a lost opportunity, as there is a lot the plot could have done with its...plot.

But someone mentioned action scenes, right? It's best not to ruin the surprises, but rest-assured that there are plenty of them, and they're all cleverly thought-out, like Rube Goldberg machines with explosions. Maybe I've said too much.

Besides the gun-filled scenes, Gore Verbinski's direction has a light touch, which lets the jokes fly. Most of the best humor comes from Rango's ineptitude, and luckily Depp is center stage throughout most of the movie. He fills the character with quick-witted charm, and the other characters can't keep

up. Unfortunately, this means that other characters feel like afterthoughts. Isla Fisher is completely underutilized as a stern lizard named Beans. When Rango puts together a posse of birds, toads and rabbits to catch the water-thieving moles, one has to wonder why Rango chose these animals in particular.

They're interchangeable creatures, and it's a real shame, since so much care was put into each character model. Rango's lizard skin is pebbly. Other creatures look as if they've spent their lives covered in mud. Their eyes, in particular, are filled with astounding depth. But with nothing to distinguish one from another, the characters might as well be blocks of pixels. Or better yet, whoopee cushions that Rango can sit on whenever he pleases, because they add little but cheap laughs to the plot. For all the chuckles, there's nothing beneath the surface.

Write to Percy Olsen at  
[PERCY.OLSEN@STUDLIFE.COM](mailto:PERCY.OLSEN@STUDLIFE.COM)

## THEATER REVIEW

### 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



**When:** March 4, 5: 8 p.m.; March 6: 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Edison Theatre  
**Price:** Students, seniors, faculty, staff: \$10  
General Admission: \$15

**DAVIS SARGEANT**  
THEATER EDITOR

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" may date to the 1590s, but the Performing Arts Department's latest production of Shakespeare's classic is as fresh as ever. All elements of the show contribute to a magical experience, as the audience travels to Fairyland and back. Make every effort to see "Dream" this weekend; even an ass would not miss it.

The oneiric plot of "Dream" combines the best of fantasy, love and the supernatural. In ancient Athens, Hermia (junior Marissa Barnathan) wishes to marry Lysander (senior Eli Keehn) against her father's wishes. Her betrothed Demetrius (sophomore Pete Winfrey) continues to love Hermia despite the incessant attention of Helena (junior Megan Lacerenza). To avoid punishment, Hermia and Lysander flee to the forest, pursued by an enraged Demetrius, while Helena chases him. Nearby, a troupe of amateur actors rehearses a tragedy. A weaver named Bottom (senior Matthew Rosenthal) is a particularly enthusiastic member of this ensemble. Simultaneously, Oberon (senior Dan Tobin), the King of Fairies, quarrels with his consort Titania (senior Julia Mellon) in the same forest. Oberon sends his servant Puck (junior Artem Kreimer) to enchant the queen with a flower; when Titania awakens she will fall in love with the first creature she sees. After Oberon observes Demetrius spurning Helena's love, he orders Puck to bewitch Demetrius

as well, though Puck mistakenly enchanting Lysander too. Furthermore, Puck transforms Bottom into an ass; Titania immediately lavishes love upon the hapless donkey. Puck and Oberon realize the extent of their mischief and frantically work so that "Jack shall have Jill/Nought shall go ill/The man shall have his mare again, and all shall be well."

The greatest triumph of this production of "Dream" is its masterful portrayal of these events. While the wild plot threatens to bewilder, even those who have never read a line of Shakespeare (shame on you!) will follow the action without difficulty. After establishing each character's relationship to the others, the story proceeds in a reasonably linear chain of cause and effect. Despite their fantastic quality, these actions and their consequences feel natural and almost rational. As Bottom notes, "I have an exposition of sleep come upon me," so too will the audience accept the play's logic. Shakespeare invites the audience to think that they have strayed into a dream alongside the characters.

The other aspects of the production all aid this seamless transition into Athens and Fairyland. For example, the lighting during the forest scenes mimics moonlight filtered by branches and adorns the walls of Edison Theatre with silhouettes of foliage. While other plays with characters that stand around listening to each other can feel static, somebody in "Dream" always moves. Contributing to this momentum, the costumes of the fairies reflect a wild and unbounded nature. The whole play has an energy that really made it fun to watch and see what would happen next. At times, one actor or another would recite lines as one would a poem, but this negligible flaw was the only real defect of the production.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is excellent. The total experience is wonderful and I recommend it to all. Allow the performers to "to show [their] simple skill," and buy a ticket. You certainly will not regret it.

Write to Davis Sargeant at  
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# sports

## Bears pitching starts year strong, offense lacking

ALEX DROPKIN  
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington University baseball team's pitching staff has surpassed expectations to start the season.

Entering Thursday's game against No. 5 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the Bear's pitchers had held their previous four opponents to an average of 2.27 runs per game. While an 11-1 loss to the Warhawks has inflated the team earned run average to 3.76, the team is still encouraged by its first five games of the season.

"I feel like every guy I've brought in has done a great job pitching," head coach Steve Duncan said. "Yeah, we're 2-3, nobody wants to be 2-3, but our pitching is deep, and it's good. With this kind of pitching, once the bats truly come alive, and they're starting to come alive, it's going to be a special team."

The Bears stand at 2-3 after splitting a doubleheader against Westminster College on Wednesday, an 8-3 win against Greenville College on Tuesday and a 4-5 loss to Division I St. Louis University on Sunday.

The Warhawks' offense pounded starter David Liebman, a senior, for seven hits and eight earned runs over four innings. Whitewater scored two runs in the first on a two-out two-RBI single, and catcher Rob Coe's three-run homerun in the second inning broke open the game.

"We pitched relatively well, which...sounds pretty ignorant, considering they put up 11 runs and did so pretty quickly," Duncan said. "In my opinion, I gained confidence in [Leibman] today. He attacked their hitters; he threw strikes."

Against Westminster, it was Wash. U.'s offense that struggled, plating just three runs in the two games combined. Senior infielder Travis May attributed the lack of offense to the Bears' plate approach rather than the Blue Jays' pitching.

"[Westminster's] pitchers were pretty average. Everyone was hitting a lot of fly balls, and the weather right now is cold and the wind was blowing hard right into our faces, so we hit a lot of pop flies," May said.

The Bears are hitting .193 on the season.

"[Wednesday] was a bad day, honestly. We expected to win both games handily and just didn't show up with the bats," May said.

Wash. U. lost the first game 3-1, but in the second, the Bears rode the strong pitching performance of sophomore Taylor Berman to a 2-0 win. Berman, making his first career appearance with Wash. U., threw a gem, allowing only one hit while striking out eight in seven innings for a complete game victory.

"It was nice to come out and be able to get ahead of guys and throw strikes, which was key for me," Berman said. "Last year...was a tough year for me because I felt that I definitely should've gotten a shot because I felt I could already pitch at this level. [Wednesday] was just going out and trying to prove that. It was sort of a year of built up frustration and turned out pretty well."

The Bears only plated lone runs in the first two innings, but that was enough for Berman.

"It really was just me and [catcher and sophomore] David Madson out there...He was calling pitches, I was just throwing them and it ended up pretty well," Berman said.

Wash. U. rallied past Greenville on Tuesday, scoring eight unanswered runs for an 8-3 win in this season's home opener.

Senior Bryce Hrovat took the mound and allowed five hits and six walks in 4.2 innings. With help from the Bears' defense, however, he limited the opposition to just three runs.

Ahead 3-1 with one on and one out in the third inning, Greenville was at the plate hoping to extend the lead. An RBI double turned into an out when runner David Massengill was thrown out at the plate on a relay from



NATHANIEL MARGOLIES | STUDENT LIFE

Senior second baseman Travis May turns a double play against Greenville College on Tuesday. May recorded five put-outs in the team's 8-3 win over the Panthers.

centerfielder Kyle Billig, a freshman, to shortstop Greg Gleicher, a sophomore, to the catcher, senior Joey Noon.

"When we're on defense, we take pride in stealing a couple outs," Duncan said. "There are 27 outs in a game, and if we can make them give us two or three outs, we're shortening the game. Greenville made those mistakes, and our guys...were ready to make plays. [Those plays] probably saved that game for us."

After throwing another Panthers' runner out at home in the seventh inning, the Bears mounted a comeback. Back-to-back-to-back singles in the bottom of the inning, coming with one out and a runner on second, gave the Bears a 4-3 lead.

"Against Greenville, we hit pretty well, but we

took advantage of a lot of errors and then just aggressive base stealing," May said. "We really just wreaked havoc and forced them into a lot of errors." He had two hits on Tuesday, including one in the rally.

Wash. U. would go on to score one more in the seventh, and three more in the eighth, while relief pitcher Zach Cain, a senior, held Greenville scoreless and picked up the victory.

The team will continue its current homestand with a rematch against UW-Whitewater on Friday, weather permitting. The first pitch is scheduled for noon.

Write to Alex Dropkin at  
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FOR RELEASE MARCH 4, 2011

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Sierra Nevada resort
- 6 Like some checking accounts
- 11 Scand. land
- 14 Observe Yom Kippur
- 15 Neptune's realm
- 16 When repeated, a Latin dance
- 17 Feature of the answers to starred clues
- 19 Children's author/illustrator Asquith
- 20 Icky stuff
- 21 Common flashlight power source
- 22 Endure
- 23 \*Poker holdings
- 25 Actor Dillon et al.
- 26 Hwys.
- 27 Chinese discipline
- 28 Cut's partner
- 31 Subdued
- 34 First N.L. 500 home run club member
- 35 Indictment
- 37 "\_\_\_ pales in Heaven the morning star": Lowell
- 38 \*Prepared to jog
- 40 Less refined
- 42 Degree requirements, at times
- 43 Convert to leather, as a hide
- 44 Minor cost component
- 45 \*Stained
- 51 Ship of Greek myth
- 52 European toast
- 53 Fit
- 54 Living in Fla., maybe
- 55 Feature of the answers to starred clues
- 57 Morse unit
- 58 Racket
- 59 More repulsive
- 60 Many IRA payees
- 61 Landlord
- 62 Really dumb

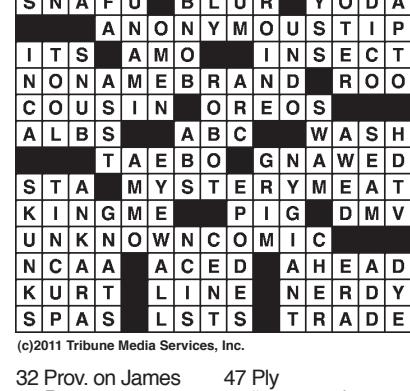


By Dan Naddor

### DOWN

- 1 Zesty flavors
- 2 Leaning
- 3 \_\_\_ society
- 4 Cocktail preparation phrase
- 5 Sushi fish
- 6 Tally symbol
- 7 Large wedding band
- 8 Strikes one as
- 9 Viscount's superior
- 10 One-third of ninety?
- 11 \*Pocketed the cue ball
- 12 Obligatory joke response
- 13 Park Avenue resident, e.g.
- 18 ER tests
- 22 Secular
- 24 Imagines
- 25 Young food court loiterer
- 27 Afternoon service
- 28 Gift shop items on a rotating stand
- 29 Where to see a caboose
- 30 \*Forte
- 31 USC or NYU
- 32 Prov. on James Bay
- 33 Amer. currency
- 36 IV units
- 39 perpetua: Idaho's motto
- 41 "\_\_\_ My Heart": 1962 #1 R&B hit for Ray Charles
- 43 Going rate?
- 45 Coil of yarn
- 46 Western chasers
- 47 Ply
- 48 "\_\_\_ usted español?"
- 49 Paula's "American Idol" replacement
- 50 Steel plow developer
- 52 Winter forecast
- 55 John Lennon Museum founder
- 56 VII x VIII

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham 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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

# scene\_

## Antique telescope offers a view into the galaxy

**BECKY CHANIS**  
SCENE REPORTER

The roof of Crow Hall houses a historical artifact that few outside of the Physics Department know about.

Crow Observatory, in addition to containing stacks of stargazing magazines and almanacs, also features a 150-year-old telescope acquired by Washington University in 1863. The observatory and telescope are open to the public on clear weeknights and provide sky-gazers with views of Jupiter, Saturn and many other celestial bodies.

The Yeatman refractor telescope dates back to when the University occupied its original downtown campus. William Greenleaf Eliot, co-founder of Washington University, announced the design for the telescope in 1857, which was funded by St. Louis philanthropist James Yeatman. The telescope was moved in 1905 when the University moved to its current campus, and the first observatory was built where Louderman Hall now stands. In 1954, the telescope was moved once more, this time to the roof of Crow Hall, and it has remained in the Crow Observatory ever since.

While modern telescopes are much more powerful than the Yeatman refractor, the viewing difference is moot in a major metropolitan area. In St. Louis, there is too much light pollution for research or far-off sightings to be done. In order to allow users of the Yeatman refractor better viewing and limit some of the University's light pollution, the observatory actually contains a switch that turns off a chandelier in the lobby of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Building.

As research using the telescope is impossible, it remains at Wash. U. as an educational tool.

"In science, doing experiments or making observations yourself is the way to learn what scientists do, and seeing pictures in a book just doesn't work," said physics professor Patrick Gibbons, who teaches solar system astronomy.

Because of this, the Crow Observatory has an interesting mix of visitors. It mostly



COURTESY OF CHARLES MUNSON

Washington University has housed the Yeatman refractor telescope since 1863. The telescope allows students to see stars and planets from throughout the galaxy, including Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

attracts physics students who are required to use the telescope for class, as well as some additional, curious students and a few people from the surrounding St. Louis community. Understandably, visitation numbers swell on nights before physics assignments are due.

"[The telescope is] primarily aimed at the Wash. U. community, so there are some students from classes, and some students just wander up there because they've heard about it," said physics professor Martin Israel, who oversees the telescope and the observatory.

"We get some people coming from the [St. Louis] community, usually only when there's mention of us or some particularly interesting event," said senior Charles Munson, one of the students who staffs the observatory.

"We had a few more people than usual when Mars was at its closest approach to the Earth than it has been for the past 10,000 years."

The telescope is a refractor telescope, meaning that it uses a lens and an eyepiece to provide a view of the night sky. The Yeatman refractor's aperture (the diameter of the lens) is six inches, and, depending on the eyepiece used in the telescope, can magnify from 60 to 603 times. This allows students to have some choice regarding which planets and stars they observe.

"It was really cool, I went on a really clear night, and you could see all the stars. I'm totally going again," sophomore Ariel Bruce said.

"One that always has a very good reaction

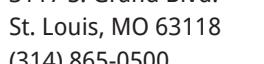
is Saturn," Munson said. "We've all seen the sketches of what Saturn looks like, but it doesn't occur to you that that's actually what Saturn looks like until you see it. It almost looks like a cartoon drawing of Saturn, so it's surprising for a lot of people."

The Crow Observatory is open to the public on clear nights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the winter and from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. during daylight saving time. To see if the observatory is open, call (314) 935-OBSV or visit [www.physics.wustl.edu/resources](http://www.physics.wustl.edu/resources).

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## Stepping Out

### LoRusso's Cucina



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**JEN MINKOWITZ**  
STEPPING OUT COLUMNIST

Located in The Hill, the St. Louis Italian district, LoRusso's Cucina offers diners a special experience.

Past the quaint little foyer, the owner and his wife stood at the front desk and personally showed us to our table. He greeted familiar faces, making me wish I was a regular just to receive some famous Italian hospitality. The interior is unpretentious yet subtly ornate, with paintings and hung plates that give a sense of home away from home, and with the charming pianist playing old fashioned tunes, I felt like I was at Rick's Café in "Casablanca."

Our meal started with "Nanna's Stuffed Eggplant," which was actually an entrée we ordered as an appetizer because I couldn't decide on just one main course. Sliced eggplant was wrapped around huge meatballs baked in a marinara sauce with bits of mozzarella cheese. The giant meatballs were consistently tender throughout, almost bread-like. Luckily, the chunky tomatoes and peppery bed of sautéed spinach doused in olive oil provided wonderful flavor. The cooked eggplant had to be torn and shredded with a knife but was well worth the effort. Signature appetizers include the wild mushroom trio in a champagne Porcini cream with mozzarella crostini, and Gorgonzola cheese-cake, served with olives and crostini.

Next was our primi, the penne all'arrabbiata, which was a fiery delight, but be aware that they aren't suggesting it's mildly spicy. The sautéed Roma tomato bits have sealed delicious acidic juices and are enhanced by bits of garlic and basil. The dish would have every component of the perfect

marinara sauce were it not infused with such intense heat, though spicy food lovers would appreciate the kick.

The restaurant prepares traditional, Italian favorites, like ziti con vodka and veal Parmesan, while also providing more innovative options, such as the chicken pistachio. Torn between the butternut ravioli in an amaretto butter sauce, with ricotta and dried cherries, and the chicken pistachio, I decided upon the latter, which was sautéed and encrusted in pistachios that gave texture and a mild nuttiness to flawlessly moist chicken that was coated in a brandied peach sauce. Though slightly more sweet than savory because of the addition of sun-dried cherries and crunchy peach slices, it still easily maneuvers its way one to my list of "most favorite chicken dishes ever."

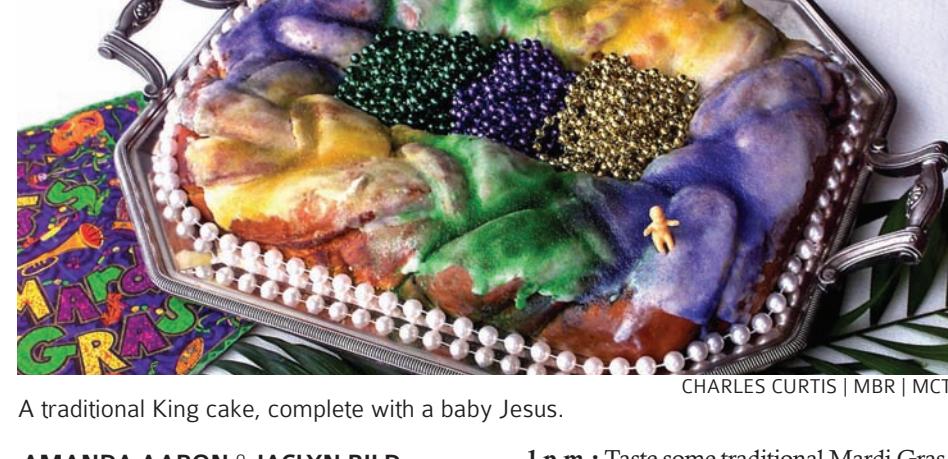
We ended with a classic tiramisu and a dessert special—a thick layer of raspberry cream with thoughtfully added bits of real fruit, sandwiched between two layers of Devil's Chocolate Cake, entirely coated in chocolate ganache. In retrospect, I should have passed on the pre-packaged cake mix dessert, which seems like wearing white after Labor Day. The tiramisu came out a little too frigid, and the sponge cake was steeped in what tasted like rum and amaretto. The creamy mascarpone cheese fell short in calming down the intense flavors of alcohol in the cake.

Despite the dessert, I doubt there are many things on the menu that you'd regret ordering for dinner, but I'd recommend their chicken pistachio. It redefined delicious. And chicken, for that matter.

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## NIGHTLIFE

### The lost Mardi Gras



CHARLES CURTIS | MBR | MCT

A traditional King cake, complete with a baby Jesus.

**AMANDA AARON & JACLYN BILD**  
SCENE NIGHTLIFE COLUMNISTS

When you hear the words Mardi Gras and New Orleans in the same sentence, you can't expect a low-key afternoon. This Tuesday isn't like any other Tuesday—it's "Fat Tuesday," a day dedicated to excessive drinking, parades, beads, nudity and the colors purple, green and gold. Best of all, the celebrations have already started and are happening in our very own city.

Did you know that St. Louis has one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations outside of New Orleans? Well, now you do, and that means you have plans this Saturday! Get ready to see lots of rowdy parades, beer guzzling and some "hooter" flashing. As graduating seniors, we have a pretty good idea of what to do this weekend, so check out this schedule we made for you:

**9:30 a.m.:** Wake up, get dressed, chug a beer.

**10:15 a.m.:** Hop on the MetroLink to Soulard.

**11 a.m.:** Grab a spot to watch the River City Casino Grand Parade on Broadway. The parade's theme this year is "American Treasures" and will feature more than 130 fascinating floats, marching bands and 3,500 marching Krewe members. The parade will run down Broadway and will continue to Seventh Street, Soulard Market and Sidney Street.

**12:30 p.m.:** Head into the Soulard neighborhood, grab drinks and listen to some live music.

**1 p.m.:** Taste some traditional Mardi Gras foods, like king cake at Soulard Bakery (730 Carroll Street; \$24 buys you a huge cake to feed all your friends).

**2 p.m.:** Stop by Molly's In Soulard (816 Geyer Avenue), and step out onto its 11,000 square foot patio for an all-day buffet and a premium open bar for only \$10 (21+, sorry youngsters).

**4 p.m.:** If you can still muster some energy, head over to The Landshark Stage (Seventh and Geyer) for a free musical performance featuring Trixie Delight, Completely Unchained, Dance Floor Riot and DJ Melissa T.

And, lastly, here are a few interesting facts to get you in the festive Mardi Gras mood:

1. The word "Mardi" is French for "Tuesday" and the word "Gras" is French for "fat."
2. The first Mardi Gras celebration took place in Mobile, Alabama in 1703, NOT in New Orleans!
3. King cake is a traditional Mardi Gras food that has a small plastic baby Jesus baked inside each cake. Whoever gets the slice with the baby will have good luck that year and is in charge of bringing a king cake to next year's party.
4. Nudity is illegal in New Orleans, who would have known?

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