

Student Life

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THIRSTY THURSDAY

The history behind kombucha as a popular beverage (Scene, pg 4)



'SAY IT AIN'T SO'

A Cadenza writer discusses his love-hate relationship with Weezer (Cadenza, pg 3)



THE SEX ISSUE IS COMING
Find it on stands Feb. 12

RINGS OF GOLD

WU CELEBRATES ST. LOUISIS' OLYMPIC LEGACY



COURTESY OF ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

A rendering show the new Olympic Rings "Spectacular" that is going to be installed on campus over the summer. This is part of a new push to celebrate St. Louis's rich olympic history, which includes hosting the 1904 Olympics in facilities still in use today, including Francis Field on the Danforth Campus.

ROHAN GUPTA SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Thirty years ago, Jackie Joyner-Kersey donned red, white and blue but shone gold. The East St. Louis, Ill. native had captured the world's attention in Seoul, South Korea with a still-standing heptathlon record in the Summer Olympics.

Monday, with the world ready to turn its focus back to South Korea for the 2018 Winter Games, Joyner-Kersey returned to her roots, helping to unveil plans to forever keep St. Louis in the Olympic spotlight.

At a news conference held Tuesday in the Francis Field House, the St. Louis Sports Commission announced a multi-phase project to re-energize pride in the city's Olympic history, including the installation of an Olympic Rings "Spectacular" on Danforth Campus. The sculpture, slated for display this fall, will stand adjacent to Seigle Hall at the end of Olympian Way, marking the spot where the 1904 Olympic Marathon started and finished.

"My long-term vision is that St. Louis would be a destination

place," Joyner-Kersey said. "The Gateway to the West, yes, it's the gateway to the beginning of the Olympic Games."

Joyner-Kersey—who received an honorary degree from Washington University in 1992—and National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame broadcaster Bob Costas—TV host of 12 Olympic Games—will serve on the newly formed St. Louis Olympic Legacy Committee. Chairman Michael Loynd said that the goal is to embrace the region's stature among its counterparts.

"We've never properly embraced our status as an Olympic host city," Loynd said. "Every two years, for 16 days, the Olympics are the biggest thing on the planet—and we're part of that."

Most importantly, the project comes with the International Olympic Committee's approval. Until now, St. Louis—the first American host city—was not allowed to display the iconic rings because the symbol was not introduced until 1912.

The spectacular will feature an Easter egg of sorts: Its base will be designed to look like an Olympic



COURTESY OF ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

Chancellor Mark Wrighton speaks during the Olympic Legacy Press Conference. This press conference introduced the Olympic Rings "Spectacular", a new installment going up on campus later this summer.

medal podium, since St. Louis was the first host to award gold, silver and bronze medals for the top three finishers. In addition to the one at Wash. U., a second sculpture will be built at a location yet to be decided.

The project will also add commemorative signs at venues used in 1904, including Forest Park, Creve Coeur Lake and Glen Echo Country Club. Those memorials,

along with facilities used in the original games—Francis Field and the gymnasium within the Gary M. Summers Recreation Center—will offer plenty of tangible reminders of the region's rich Olympic history.

Michelle Venturella, 2000 softball gold medalist and now head coach of the Wash. U. softball

SEE OLYMPICS, PAGE 6

University to add more sexual violence listening sessions, begins to implement changes

NOA YADIDI
MANAGING EDITOR

The Washington University Title IX Office and the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Center will host three additional listening sessions this semester aimed at gathering feedback and answering questions surrounding how the University addresses issues of sexual assault and sexual violence.

The listening sessions follow three identical sessions held last semester, which have already yielded some changes in education efforts, but organizers are hoping a revamped advertising strategy will attract potential attendees who may have been unaware of last semester's sessions. These efforts come as a part of a greater attempt by the University to address criticism for the way it has handled cases of sexual violence, notably in two Student Life op-eds published last spring, as well as the three active federal Title IX investigations against the University opened by the Department of Education this past July.

"Last semester, I had never advertised anything before and I didn't really know how to do it. Since then, I've learned exactly how [and] what the best ways are to get information out to the students, so I'm hopeful that we'll get a good turnout," Title IX Coordinator Jessica Kennedy said. "We got some really good information last semester about things people wanted, and I think we were able to answer a lot of questions, which was good."

As part of a more aggressive ad campaign, Kennedy said some of her plans include displaying information on electronic boards across

SEE TITLE IX, PAGE 8

Olin Business School lays off 14 employees, creates 16 new positions

AIDEN BLINN STAFF REPORTER

Dean of Olin Business School Mark Taylor announced the layoffs of 14 administrative staffers in the Olin Business School's graduate programs in an email sent to the St. Louis Business Journal Feb. 5.

According to Taylor, the restructuring—which will not impact undergraduate administration at the University—is geared toward improving Olin's administrative structure.

"These changes streamline and combine the staffing of Olin's graduate programs—the full-time MBA program, specialized master's programs, the Professional MBA and the Executive MBA program," Taylor wrote in an email to Student Life.

Rather than transition the 14

employees into the newly created positions, the school decided to lay off staff members because of the differences between the old and new jobs.

"The new roles are sufficiently different from some of the existing roles as to make it inappropriate to require people simply to switch," Taylor wrote.

As stated by Taylor, the business school aims to serve both its graduate students and its staff with this new organization.

"We considered the process very carefully with an eye toward advancing Olin's strategy while providing as much support for employees as possible," Taylor wrote. "The new structure creates clarity around roles, clear paths for staff advancement and alignment with the needs of students and the strategic plan."

Alan Zhang, president of the

Graduate Professional Council, believes that the restructuring is part of Taylor's plan to enhance Olin's graduate school.

"His main concern is lifting the prestige of the graduate programs," Zhang said. "Dean Taylor's approach, I think, is to dramatically increase the attractiveness and the rigor of the graduate programs at our school."

Zhang sees the restructuring of Olin's administrative staff as part of a transitional period across the University as it undergoes changes in leadership.

"I think this might kind of represent a larger trend and that a new leadership is forming," Zhang said.

Taylor emphasized that although the school is laying off employees, the University is still

SEE OLIN, PAGE 2



STEPHEN HUBER | STUDENT LIFE

Bauer Hall is one of the buildings on campus which hosts Olin Business School classes. The business school recently laid off 14 of its employees.

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THURS 8 SUNNY 45/33 FRI 9 PARTLY CLOUDY 52/26 SAT 10 CLOUDY 32/19 SUN 11 SNOW SHOWERS 30/15

EVENT CALENDAR

THURSDAY 8

Assembly Series—"A Time to Care: Why Everyone Should Support Criminal Justice Reform"

Anheuser-Busch Hall, Room 310, noon

Shon Hopwood, convicted felon turned law professor, presents the Thomas Hennings Lecture.

Margo Jefferson Reads From Her Creative Nonfiction

Duncker Hall, Hurst Lounge, 8 p.m.

Margo Jefferson, Columbia U., is the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for criticism. Sponsored by the Department of English.

FRIDAY 9

V-Day Wash U presents "Vagina Monologues"

Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge, 7:30 p.m.

A Wash. U. student production. "The Vagina Monologues" is an annual fundraiser for V-Day Wash U, a local chapter of an international movement dedicated to ending violence against women and girls around the world. Tickets online or (314) 935-6543. Additional performance on Feb. 10.

SATURDAY 10

Lecture: "Rhythm a la francaise: How French Filmmakers Reinvented 'Musical' Perception"

McMillan Hall, Room G052, 11 a.m.

Colin Burnett, Film and Media studies. Sponsored by University College MLA Lecture Series. Each Saturday this February, Wash. U. faculty will explore the fundamental role of rhythm in the human body, the clinical applications of rhythm in song and dance, the power of rhythm in poetry and rhythmic forms that drive French film. Seating is limited and RSVPs are requested.

POLICE BEAT

FEB. 4

Fire—Lofts

Oven fire, extinguished with a fire extinguisher prior to fire department arrival. Disposition: Cleared

FEB. 7

Larceny—DUC

Person(s) unknown stole money from the Coca Cola delivery truck. Loss \$2,436 Disposition: Pending

Student Union senators implement personal projects to increase accountability

DORIAN DEBOSE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

All Student Union senators will undertake individual projects this semester as part of SU's initiative to ensure accountability.

Junior and Speaker of the Senate Brian Adler introduced this initiative after noticing that the Senate's task force structure wasn't producing tangible resolutions.

"One of the problems with just the task force model is that we didn't really have motivated senators because they weren't working on something that they personally cared about," Adler said. "A specific goal was lacking in many cases."

Adler believes that tying senators to specific, self-directed projects will create a more productive body.

"People picked things that they were motivated to do," Adler said. "And so now we actually have these projects that are coming to fruition because they're things that senators actually care about."

Many senators are already making progress on their initiatives. For instance, freshman Senator Nathan Card collaborated with Campus Card Services to lower the minimum deposit amount for Bear Bucks.

"It's a small change. It's not going to have a huge effect, but it's something" Card said. "And I'm glad to be doing something."

Another project by Sophie Scott and Alex Baker, both freshmen senators, maps printer locations on campus. Scott and Baker created a website and are working to integrate their project into the WUSTL app.

"We've made a lot of progress pretty quickly," Scott said. "We're really happy about where we are right now and hope that it's done in two weeks."

Freshman and Senator Mia Hamernik is working toward increasing accessibility to gender-neutral bathrooms. While the project is still in its early stages, much of the planning has been completed.

"I'm excited to say that I now have a solid foundation to really get into the nitty-gritty details of my project," she said.

Hamernik hopes the project will provide an idea of what steps will be taken going forward in renovations, as well as raise awareness that more gender-neutral bathrooms are being constructed.

"My vision of the final product of this project would include clarifying if gender neutral bathrooms are in the plans for [Washington University's] newest buildings along with scheduled renovations," Hamernik said. "Another thing I'd like to accomplish is creating a map or database of some sort that documents where each gender-neutral bathroom is located within [the University]."

Freshmen

senators Tyrin Truong and Charlotte Pohl are working to get water fountains on every floor of every dorm.

"Charlotte was emailing someone from [Residential Life], and we have a meeting coming up later this week," Truong said.

Truong is also working on splitting the Senate Outreach Committee to highlight its dual function of advocating to the administration on behalf of students and handling Senate public relations with the student body.

"I feel like currently outreach isn't able to do both effectively because Senate isn't in such a good place right now. We're spending most of our time outreaching to students, but we haven't been able to properly allocate enough time to advocate for students to [the] administration," Truong said.

The initiative is part of a greater focus on internal Senate accountability in SU. Adler hopes that the changes at the organizational level will make the responsibilities of everyone involved clearer.

"I think it's sort of on us, the Senate leadership, to make sure we are making it clear what our expectations are—and those expectations haven't always been clear in the past," Adler said. "It also means that we have the responsibility to have clear paths for people to do what they're supposed to do."

News in brief: Entrepreneurship fellows, faculty appointments

NEWS EDITORS

WU ARRANGES AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIAL POLICY, ENGINEERING, MEDICINE

Washington University arranged an international symposium on social policy, engineering and medicine hosted by the National University of Singapore. Faculty lectures addressed a diverse range of topics

about mechanobiology and "inclusive asset building for children in under-served regions." They also stressed the importance of global collaboration and how technological progress can stimulate social progress. In addition to lectures, the symposium also featured a series of discussions to allow participating figures with a variety of professional backgrounds to address the intersection of their respective fields.

TWO FACULTY MEMBERS SELECTED AS

FIRST ENTREPRENEURSHIP FELLOWS

Two Washington University faculty fellows were named inaugural faculty fellows in entrepreneurship. Vijay Ramani—he Roma B. and Raymond H. Witcoff Distinguished University Professor of Environment and Energy—is the faculty fellow to serve the Danforth Campus while Jennifer Silva, associate professor of pediatrics, is the faculty fellow to serve the Medical Campus.

The purpose of the faculty

fellows will be to provide support and guidance to Washington University faculty members who are interested in entrepreneurship and other startup opportunities. Ramani and Silva will advise faculty members on how to adhere to the University's policies and regulations on faculty startups while creating their own companies.

Ramani, whose primary research deals with electrochemical engineering, material science and renewable energy technologies, is an expert in electrochemical conversion and storage and renewable

energy integration.

Silva, who joined the Washington University School of Medicine faculty in 2009, is a pediatric cardiologist at the St. Louis Children's Hospital who specializes in treating children with irregular heartbeats. She co-founded the company SentiAR Inc., which commercializes a procedure to examine irregular heart rhythms.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTS AND PROMOTES

FACULTY MEMBERS TO TENURE

During the Washington University board of trustees meeting Oct. 6, faculty members from multiple disciplines were appointed or promoted with tenure. Three faculty were appointed as professors with tenure in the School of Arts & Sciences, one in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and four in the School of Medicine. Nine faculty members were promoted with tenure as associate professors at the School of Medicine.

OLIN from page 1

supporting the affected staff members and will consider them for the new positions.

"In keeping with past practice at Wash. U., we wanted to provide support, space and time to

the people affected by these changes to explore the new opportunities and determine where they see themselves in the organization long-term," Taylor wrote. "The 16 new positions were posted

internally, and the 14 affected employees will be given first consideration to fill them while they continue in their roles for the next two months."

Though he believes that the layoffs will ultimately

benefit the University, Taylor recognizes the impact that the school's decision will have on some of its staff, citing a need to balance quality of education and fair treatment of employees.

"I recognize this is a difficult process. This organizational redesign directly affects the lives of people who have faithfully served the business school, some for many years. We take none of this lightly," Taylor

wrote. "We recognize the need to be proactive and adapt to ensure we are providing the best service possible to our students while acting responsibly and supportively to our employees."

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CADENZA

Love-hate: My complicated relationship with Weezer

JOSH ZUCKER
STAFF WRITER

I love Weezer, but I also hate the fact that I love Weezer, but I also love the fact that I hate the fact that I love Weezer. Many of the Weezer fans that I've talked to share this oddly specific sentiment, so what makes Weezer the perfect band to love to hate and hate to love? For me, Weezer is the perfect combination of fantastic—if not uneven—music, terrible lyrics, nostalgia and teenage (or pre-teenage) angst.

Rivers Cuomo, for all of the hate that I like to give him, can write an incredible hook. Weezer's songs are as catchy as they are iconic, and I would have a hard time finding someone who didn't know "Buddy Holly," "Say It Ain't So," "Beverly Hills" or "Island in the Sun" among their other most famous songs. The band has the ability to bring out some of the best guitar work from the alternative rock/pop-punk genre. Their vocals, if you're looking at them sonically rather than lyrically, fit perfectly

into their songs. Patrick Wilson's drumming, though easily missed in the background, provides the base for every great Weezer song. The portrait of Weezer's songs, painted by each of the members with their own musical talents, ends up as an incredibly full audible experience.

However, while Weezer boasts much amazing music, the sheer size of their discography means that they also have a lot of mediocre music that just gets ignored. Over the past two and a half decades they've released a dozen albums, with another album recently announced. Any band with that amount of music is bound to have some duds. As excited as I was when a new Weezer album would drop, whenever I would go back to listen to them, I would find myself relishing a few amazing songs within a sea of average ones.

While I'm hesitant to call any Weezer song truly bad, I can only name a small portion of their music as truly excellent. Does this large amount of forgettable

music take away from their—admittedly fairly large—collection of fantastic songs? I would say no, but for all the praise that I love to give some of their songs, I have to remind myself of the apathy I have for the majority of their music.

Much of this apathy comes from their lyricism. Although many of Rivers Cuomo's lyrics sound good, when you actually listen to them it becomes obvious how bad they are. Most of Weezer's lyrics are uncreative, dull and make me question why I'm even listening to the band. At their best Weezer's lyrics are all right, on average they're not great, but at their worst they have elements of sexism, racism and homophobia in them. It's quite hard at times to listen to Weezer due to their lyrics, especially those in "Pinkerton."

While "Pinkerton" is debatably Weezer's best album, the lyrics of songs such as "El Scorcho" and "Pink Triangle" make it quite difficult to get through the album. While

many see these lyrics as a way of Cuomo masking himself and as an appeal for genuine human connection, they come across as whiney and offensive. However, "Pinkerton" as an album is an incredibly personal look into Rivers Cuomo's loneliness, and in the album he is extremely vulnerable. While this personal touch is no excuse for its various offenses, and arguably makes the lyrics worse, it does bring with it a level of artistic appeal. The closing song, "Butterfly," acts almost as an apology for the album. Cuomo knows that much of what he did was wrong but still chooses to include these songs as they represent who he was at the time that he made "Pinkerton." It's full truth, and it isn't always appealing.

Weezer released "Pinkerton" in 1996, two years after their debut self-titled album, and since these albums, with an exception of a short hiatus after the release of "Pinkerton," they have released albums fairly regularly. Their continual

release of new music has allowed a large range of people to experience their adolescence and young adulthood through their music. As someone who got into Weezer in his pre-teen and early teen years, I can attest to the fact that there is something incredibly appealing about their music in that phase of your life. They have just the right amount of moodiness in their music where they seem to go between toeing the line of emo music and just goofing off in any given track. While Weezer's music has many of the elements of emo in it, it never feels heavy-handed in the way that much of the emo genre does.

Due to the appeal that Weezer has with adolescents, as well as the band's longevity, it has been able to become associated with nostalgia for many, myself included. The amount of people I've met who fell in love with Weezer in their early teens is incredible. The band has been able to capitalize on their appeal and Weezer concerts are filled with people from

under fourteen to over forty.

In my opinion, Weezer has become the epitome of the alternative rock band. Emerging from the post-grunge period of the early to mid '90s, its musical style has become synonymous with the era. They have a wide appeal and a full discography of music that is just as easy to love as it is to hate.

While I personally will always hold their first two albums in much higher regard than their other music, with the exception of "Everything Will Be Alright In The End," which came out during my height of Weezer love, their new music has its own appeal. Many consider the White Album (known formally as "Weezer") to be one of their best. The fact that more than two decades after releasing their first albums they can still be making enjoyable music is laudable. So love them, hate them, love to hate them or even hate to love them; there's no denying Weezer's impact as a cultural force.



MO and Cashmere Cat perform at the Pageant to lackluster audience

KALPANA GOPALKRISHNAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Danish-based pop vocalist MO and Norwegian DJ Cashmere Cat performed at the Pageant on Friday Feb. 2 to a mid-sized crowd. The two artists, who have been on tour together this year, collaborated together in the past on Cashmere Cat's most recent album "9" with the song "9 (After Coachella)."

Cashmere Cat opened the concert as about a dozen headlights pointed towards the stage, and a blue light was cast over him. The long blonde hair covering his face and the dark lighting created a truly eerie feeling on the stage. In fact, Cashmere

Cat is known for rarely showing his face; even many of his press photos cover his eyes.

Though Cashmere Cat played some of his most popular songs, including "Quit" featuring Ariana Grande and "Trust Nobody" featuring Selena Gomez, the audience at the Pageant did not have the energy like the typical crowd at an EDM concert. Hardly any audience members sang along or danced. Nonetheless, Cashmere Cat tried his best to perform for the audience with his unique pop and EDM sound. In addition to songs from his album, he played some of his remixes that originally led him to fame, including one of "Wolves" by Kanye West.

Toward the middle of the concert, MO entered. While her name is not initially familiar to many people, most people know of her voice. As a regular collaborator with Major Lazer, she is featured in both "Lean On" and "Cold Water." She performed both of those songs at the venue, along with her 2016 hit "Final Song" and "When I Was Young." Her songs drew much more enthusiasm from the adolescent crowd than Cashmere Cat. With her restless voice and intense gestures throughout her performance, she did not come across as a typical female pop star, and her enthusiasm solidified her rising status as a star in the electropop genre.

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SCENE



Thirsty Thursday : All about Kombucha (Part 1)

HARRY HALL
STAFF WRITER

This is the first of a two-part series on kombucha. Next week, I will walk you through the surprisingly hands-off instructions on how to make kombucha at home.

In the past few years, a drink named kombucha has made its way through the health-food niche and onto the shelves of regular grocery stores. Its recent popularity often-times aligns with other super-food fads, such as kale, goji berries and chia, with accepted but mostly unknown health benefits. An average shopper could likely identify kombucha but won't yet know exactly what it is or why someone would want to drink it.

A first taste of kombucha poses a question to the taste buds, since the drink confusingly falls between usual beverage

categories. An "original" flavor (most kombucha has fruit, vegetables, ginger or juice added for taste) has a slightly sour, vinegary bite coupled with a sweetness akin to homemade soda. Kombucha is carbonated and has a yeasty scent, like a light beer but without any alcoholic aftertaste. It's a mix of many flavors, and I think of my first sip of coconut water as precedent: simply surprising, hard to place.

Many initial reactions to kombucha align with its actual composition. Kombucha is a fermented, carbonated, sweetened tea drink that dates back, many believe, to over 2000 years ago in Northern China. Kombucha starts out as black or green tea, to which producers add a SCOBY, which stands for "symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast" and

looks like a gelatinous, transparent disk. If you ever get a chance to see a SCOBY (some kombucha kept on store shelves too long will contain one at the top), you may shy away from the drink. SCOBYs look a lot like mold—certainly something you would want to avoid. But the SCOBY is technically only good bacteria. It's actually what gives kombucha its acidic texture and probiotic characteristics, helping with digestion and stomach health much the way yogurt does. (In fact, it's not dangerous to eat a SCOBY whole, though I can't say I would ever have the guts to try one myself.)

Kombucha's fermentation process is similar to that of other alcoholic drinks—bacteria and sugar combine to produce carbonation. Most kombucha also contains a small amount of alcohol

(under .5 percent content, which is not enough for even a buzz).

Kombucha is often termed a "functional beverage," meaning it falls into a category which includes energy and sports drinks, herbal teas and juices, all of which have a range of stipulated and actual health benefits. Some assert kombucha's ability to cure diseases and reverse aging processes. Generally, such claims have not been backed by scientific evidence.

But kombucha has a specific and not unpleasant acquired taste, enjoyable for its own sake. It's sweet but not as sweet as soda. As a result, it feels both like a treat and a healthy option. As for flavors, I prefer my kombucha with ginger, which gives it an additional spicy bite. Mango and citrus flavors also compliment kombucha

well, making the drink akin to a lighter version of a shandy.

The only real problem with kombucha is the cost. Like cold brew coffee, the kombucha trend threatens to set you back at checkout, with a bottle usually coming in at around \$4. However, making your own kombucha is surprisingly cheap. Once you buy a SCOBY (which only costs a few dollars), the cost of producing liters of kombucha barely exceeds the cost of making black tea. By my count, a bottle's worth of homemade kombucha would amount to no more than a 50-cent investment.

In the second installment of this Thirsty Thursday special on kombucha, I'll go through a first attempt at making kombucha, outlining how you can try it, too. The whole process only takes about an hour of



ILLUSTRATION
BY JOSH ZUCKER

preparation and a few weeks of storage. Look forward to that next week!

WUpcycle combines fashion, sustainability, and DIY sensibilities

HANUSIA HIGGINS
SENIOR SCENE EDITOR

It's Friday, Feb. 2, and Eva Blumenfeld is full of energy. The senior and Sharing With A Purpose co-owner's new project, WUpcycle, is having its first sale of the semester in the Danforth University Center, and business is booming.

As we search for somewhere to sit down—the eternal struggle of lunchtime DUC rush hour—Blumenfeld shares an anecdote that exemplifies the hyper-local nature of her new venture. As she and a friend rolled a rack of repurposed clothes through Etta's Cafe earlier that morning, en route from WUpcycle's home base in Bixby Hall to the sale in the DUC, an Etta's employee, Melvin, stopped them. He simply had to snag an item off the rack: a denim jacket-sweatshirt hybrid that showed off his Washington University pride.

WUpcycle is an initiative to repurpose clothes that might otherwise be deemed unwearable into unique fashion pieces, handmade by Washington University students. Its name is a combination of the "WU" acronym common to virtually any campus organization with the descriptor "upcycle" (and the first syllable rhymes with "wup," not "woo").

What exactly is

upcycling? According to Blumenfeld, it's a trendier term for reusing or repurposing. As opposed to the other classic "three Rs" and recycling, which implies degradation, upcycling elevates the items to which it applies. "It definitely implies a bit of creativity," Blumenfeld said.

The inspiration to create WUpcycle stemmed from Blumenfeld's role as co-owner of Sharing With A Purpose (SWAP). Manning the group's South 40 storefront, the Trading Post, she saw tons of donations that she thought could be improved and reused, with just a little bit of sprucing up.

"I've seen a lot of stuff go in and out of that place, and a lot of it is damaged. So, it occurred to me—how can we fix this? Then, it occurred to me that Wash. U. literally has a seamstress shop, really experienced tailors and seamstresses, on their campus—the fashion [design] majors!" Blumenfeld explained.

Though she'd taught herself how to sew the previous summer, Blumenfeld knew she wanted to involve more members of the fashion design department. Fortunately, she connected with Associate Professor Mary Ruppert-Stroescu, who was more than happy to help.

"I was sitting in my office one day last fall,

and a young woman named Eva came in and asked if anyone was interested in talking about recycling clothes. I said, 'Yes! That would be great!' and we started talking, and she just seemed to be so passionate and together with everything she was doing that we just kind of hit it off right away," Ruppert-Stroescu confirmed.

Ruppert-Stroescu's own research focuses in part on sustainable fashion design—making her the perfect partner for WUpcycle. She now serves as a faculty advisor of sorts, providing education about sustainability in fashion and being available to assist during WUpcycle's weekly open studios, where anyone can come to craft their own upcycled creations.

Though making clothing is not a day-to-day activity for the average Wash. U. student, WUpcycle is incredibly accessible—other than the potentially daunting trek to the Sam Fox school on the east end of campus, but then again, the campus circulator can fill that need.

Blumenfeld explains that WUpcycle's weekly open studios are "open in the total respects of the world—anyone can come, no experience required, all materials provided." These inclusive workshops take place in Bixby Hall, Room 16, every Friday from noon to 4 p.m.

Although the open

studios used to be housed in Blumenfeld's apartment, the move to Bixby has many advantages—namely, access to "piles of textiles and dozens of sewing machines" and the presence of "people there who know how to sew already," according to Blumenfeld.

She continued: "Let's say you have zero sewing experience. You come, you learn how to make a pocket, you sew it onto a sweatshirt to cover a stain, and you can keep it... You can come and make whatever you want."

Although WUpcycle has attracted students from all corners of campus, much of the enthusiasm for the project has come from a specific cohort: freshmen in the fashion design program. Because the major curriculum doesn't get into actual fashion design until students' sophomore year, many first-year students have jumped at the chance to get involved with hands-on design through WUpcycle, according to Blumenfeld.

As her May graduation looms, Blumenfeld has embraced the enthusiastic young crew as the future of WUpcycle.

"I'm really trying to loosen the reins and let everyone else step up," she said. "They're really into it on their own; I don't have to push it at all, so I would love for this project to continue in some respect, regardless of how that might be. And I'm



COURTESY OF CATHERINE HERLIHY

Melvin, an employee at Etta's Cafe, wears a customized jean jacket-hoodie that he purchased from WUpcycle last week. confident that it would be able to do so."

Although WUpcycle is undoubtedly fashionable and fun, its main mission is not only aesthetic; it's reuse with a purpose. Both the inputs and the outputs of the textile industry—production, as well as waste—have massively devastating environmental impacts. Creating one cotton T-shirt uses up about 400 gallons of water; conversely, the average U.S. resident produces 82 pounds of textile waste per year, 70 pounds of

which goes to a landfill. With these sobering statistics in mind—and the global demand for textiles, especially "fast fashion," only growing—upcycling is a fantastic way to cut down on personal consumption and reduce waste within our campus community. It's personalizable, customizable, fun and totally free—just stop by the bottom floor of Bixby Hall on a Friday afternoon. WUpcycle, Blumenfeld and the sewing machines will be waiting for you.

Student Life



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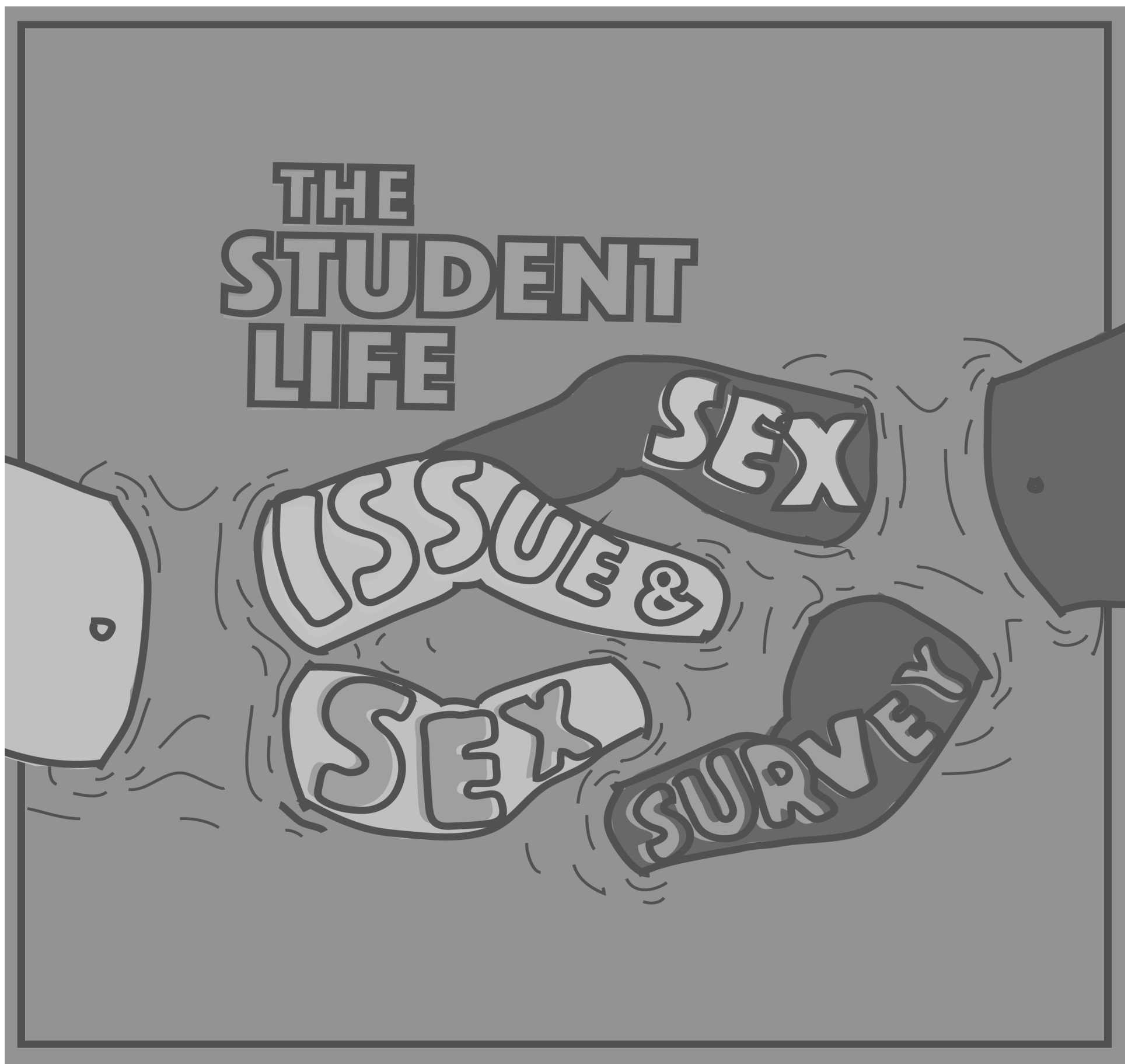
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puzzle mania

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"Anthropoid"

Difficulty ★☆☆☆☆ (10pts)

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.

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	A	S	
L	N	T	H
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"The Mortal Instruments"
Difficulty ★★★☆☆ (240pts)

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

ACROSS

- 1 Sales pitch
- 6 Outback birds
- 10 Sunup
- 14 Café lure
- 15 Clickable webpage word
- 16 Home to billions
- 17 Grass shortener
- 18 Apart from that
- 19 Slightly wet
- 20 Julie Andrews' "The Sound of Music" role
- 23 Risk, e.g.
- 24 Healthful berry
- 25 Jimmy Fallon hosts it
- 31 "Homeland" spy org.
- 32 Taxi
- 33 Nebraska city
- 34 "Apocalypse Now" setting, familiarly
- 35 Gathering for fans of graphic novels, anime, etc.
- 38 Delivery vehicle
- 39 Painting need
- 41 Microwave
- 42 Valuable rock
- 43 Avengers member with a patriotic shield
- 48 Tolstoy's Karenina
- 49 Dutch cheese
- 50 9/26/1957 Broadway debut featuring the consecutive songs found at the start of 20-Across and the end of 43-Across
- 55 With 50-Down, tightrope walker's place
- 56 Oscar winner Kazan
- 57 Aquafina rival
- 59 Craving
- 60 Accelerates, with "up"
- 61 Foolish
- 62 Military meal
- 63 Cafeteria carrier
- 64 V-formation fliers

By Peter Gordon 2/8/15

DOWN

- 1 "Casablanca" pianist
- 2 Formal school dance
- 3 Com Belt state
- 4 Rise into view
- 5 Cattleman's rope
- 6 Late morning hr.
- 7 Venus de
- 8 Disentangle
- 9 Quick drawing
- 10 Arp's art movement
- 11 Right away, in a memo
- 12 Namby-pamby person
- 13 Midday snooze
- 21 Gas brand that had a torch in its logo
- 22 Florida's Boca
- 25 Pageant winner's crown
- 26 Exaggerate, as a stage role
- 27 Spanish island in the Mediterranean
- 28 Devastation that's wreaked
- 29 Scarlett of Tara
- 30 Decrease in intensity
- 31 "Closing Bell" channel
- 35 Repetitive shout at a protest
- 36 Required little effort
- 37 Newspaper opinion pieces
- 40 Secret supplies
- 44 Add to text, as a missing letter
- 45 Carpenter, at times
- 46 Suitable for all ages, filmwise
- 47 Apple software for creating videos
- 50 See 55-Across
- 51 Omelet ingredients
- 52 Prima donna
- 53 Ready for picking
- 54 Toy dog's barks
- 55 Play a kazoo
- 58 TV's "Science Guy"

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

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

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

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SPORTS

All eyes on PyeongChang: What we're most excited for in the Winter Olympics

SPORTS STAFF

February can often be the worst month of the year. It feels like it has been cold forever and there is no clear end in sight. The Super Bowl happens at the beginning of the month, and there aren't really any meaningful college or professional basketball games until the end, leaving a dead chunk of cold darkness with no sports to cheer you up. But not this year! This year is a Winter Olympics year, which means that by the time you are reading this, we will already be in the midst of a flurry of two weeks of nonstop sports entertainment. Even if you're not a sports fan, the Winter Olympics always make for great storylines, which is why there are so many great Winter Olympic movies: "Miracle," "Cool Runnings" and most recently "I, Tonya." There's something for everyone, and here is what our staff is most excited for.

Ice hockey

I have heard several people over the past few months say that hockey will be boring at this year's Olympic games, seeing as the National Hockey League refused to let its players leave for Pyeongchang. I would counter, however, that this is great news. The single most iconic moment in Olympic hockey history—accompanied by perhaps the most famous call in American sports broadcasting history—was Team USA's 1980 win over the Soviet Union. That American team was made up entirely of recent college graduates, the vast majority of whom would never go on to have significant NHL careers. What does that tell you? That the best Olympic storylines are the ones where someone comes from nowhere and steals the hearts of the nation. Without any NHL players, hockey is ripe for a breakout Olympic superstar this year.

—Jon Lewis, Senior Sports Editor

Ski jumping

I'm not really into sports at all, so I probably wouldn't be going out of my way to watch the Winter Olympics in any other year. Why is this year different? Well, while I was on a break at my retail job one day this January, the TV in the break room just happened to be tuned to the U.S. ski jumping qualifiers. In that 45-minute period, I became incredibly invested in Team USA's ski jumpers—most of whom are even younger than I am (and consequently caused me to have a mini-crisis of "what have I accomplished in my life?"). First of all, I like ski jumping because it's really easy to follow the scoring: Each jump is scored on distance and style, plus allowances for interfering wind. Even better, watching this sport is absolutely mesmerizing: The skiers (jumpers?) launch themselves into the air and lean forward, laying flat and low, their bodies almost parallel with the skis themselves. They hover in

the winter-white air, seemingly motionless, for seconds at a time before crouching slightly to make contact with the incoming ground, and glide triumphantly down to the bottom of the slope. At this point, I'm following the U.S. ski jumping team as closely as I am Kylie Jenner's new baby—and that's saying something.

—Hanusia Higgins, Senior Editor

Snowboarding

So, my family is really into hockey. But unlike Jon, we're all pretty bummed that the NHL players aren't competing in the Olympics this year. Like, so bummed that my brother said, "If you're a real hockey fan, you might as well just watch the NHL instead." But the thing is, the Olympics has a lot of events besides hockey. One of my personal favorites is snowboarding—something I never watch unless we're in the midst of a Winter Olympics. Honestly, I don't know who any of the big snowboarding

stars are besides Shaun White, but I'll be watching him compete in the halfpipe joyously. Oh, and on both the men's and women's sides, there are 17-year-old athletes (Red Gerard and Chloe Kim, respectively) looking to make history by medaling. I'm as much a sucker for an "Olympic dreams" story as anyone—so you bet I'll be cheering along these young athletes. But as for hockey? The quality of play with no NHLers—and no Russian team—is going to be disappointingly different from years past. Bring on the obscure winter sports, please!

—Ella Chochrek, Editor-in-Chief

Figure Skating

I have a love-hate relationship with figure skating. I simply know too much about it. My sister competitively figure skated until she was 14, which seems like only a short time, but it was our family's entire life. She was at the rink more than 24 hours a week, pure muscle, and a complete machine. It made such an

impact that we all kind of keep up with it in our own ways. I Instagram stalk the girl I used to watch who was vying for an Olympic spot. My sister subscribes to a skating newsletter. It's a whole thing. I want to see the song choices of the competitors now that lyrics are able to be included. I'm so invested. So is my grandma. Much ice. Much political.

—Katy Hutson, Senior Editor

Bob Costas

Something about those blue eyes, tinged slightly red with the early signs of a pink eye infection, combined with that pastel patterned tie really let me know it's that special time of the year. A time to celebrate American pride and the hard work of the top athletes in their respective fields, directed by the ringleader of the whole show: Bob Costas. My hero, the man of the hour, the best—wait, what do you mean he's not coming this year?

—Aidan Strassmann, Senior Editor

OLYMPICS from page 1

team, hopes that those visible reminders will spur dialogue and, in turn, ambition.

"The fact that you have physical things, like the rings, on campus will spark conversation," Venturella said. "When you start to learn about the history, then you

will be potentially inspired... it just takes some kind of story to trigger that. And so,

my hope is that as people talk about it, it's not about what we did... it is about what can happen here. And this is such an amazing group of students here at Wash. U. I have

no doubt that they could just take off with this concept."

Joyner-Kersey agreed that the rings are only significant if students understand the meaning behind them.

"Sometimes, we can get too involved with the commercial, which is fine, but [it

is] really [about] the human spirit, the stories of people you don't even know about. And the Olympics have a way of bringing those stories to life," Joyner-Kersey said.

Supporting St. Louis' youth was a theme among the Olympians in attendance. While Joyner-Kersey founded the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis to work with young people and their families, Venturella and 2008 women's soccer gold medalist Lori Chalupny, a St. Louis native, do their part through coaching. Chalupny, currently an assistant coach at Maryville University, got her start in 2011 in the same role with the Bears.

"I guess that's the hard part, is to relate the journey that I went through to the kids that I'm coaching now,"

Chalupny said. "But I think there's so much of becoming an Olympian that's off the field as well, just in terms of putting your all into something, something that you're passionate about and living your dreams."

Venturella added that regardless of the path any student takes—as an athlete or otherwise—the history of excellence in the community is a reminder that any dream is attainable, and that they have help behind them to make it happen.

"If the kids can just have the idea that, maybe I can do this—it starts with a thought, and it did for most of us at some point," Venturella said. "That's what we want to do, let them know that...there are people like us, their coaches, their teachers, their parents that are going to support

them. You really don't ever get to the top on your own... It always takes a little bit of help along the way.

"Maybe they won't become Olympians, but they might take those same principles and apply it after they graduate...It's always hard, I'll tell you that. But they can do it. If they really want it, they can do it."

Joyner-Kersey summed it up by emphasizing that the project, while backward-looking, is for future generations: "This is not for us, it's for you."

Chancellor Mark Wrighton joked that the rings will quickly become a hotspot on campus.

"I am sure that 'Meet me at the rings' will quickly become part of the Washington University vocabulary," Wrighton said.

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Jackie Joyner-Kersey, a six-time Olympic medalist, speaks at the Olympic Legacy Press Conference. Olympic Rings that will be built on campus were unveiled at the press conference.



Renderings of the new Olympic Rings "Spectacular" installment are unveiled in the Field House. The Olympic Rings will serve to commemorate the 1904 Olympics held in St. Louis.

FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Another semester, another session

Last semester, Washington University's Title IX Office and the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center teamed up to host "listening sessions" for students to raise questions and critique about how Wash. U. handles sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Some of the previously voiced concerns—including those described in two op-eds submitted to Student Life last

year—included the length of time it took for the Title IX office to complete investigations and the office's lack of sensitivity during the investigations themselves. When the listening sessions were first announced, the Editorial Board noted the virtue of the sessions themselves but encouraged the University to be willing to make drastic changes to the process if indicated.

Now, we get to see the results.

Some of the new changes outlined include

three more sessions to be held in February and March; increased dialogue between the Women's Panhellenic Association and the Title IX Office; updates to the Title IX website; increased training for professors and resident advisers; and an unbiased assessment of the newly instituted changes by the Institute of Public Health through the Brown School.

The Editorial Board commends the Title IX Office for some of these changes: Increasing communication about these

issues to help dispel the stigma surrounding sexual assault and educating campus leaders about the process can only lead to good things. Facilitating these discussions by asking for questions ahead of time and presenting clear descriptions of the complicated processes has the potential to increase transparency campus-wide.

While this promise to change is all well and good, some of these adjustments have yet to take place. The three previous sessions were all held

in September—almost five months ago—yet the timeline for the independent assessment has not been decided, and other changes have been promised to "roll out this semester."

While encouraging, none of these changes seem to focus the procedure itself; instead, the focus is on how people view it. One major issue students have with the process—the length of time it takes—seems to have been unaddressed, save for answering questions about

why it takes so long in the first place. What about the scheduling mishaps or violations of student privacy? Or the allegations of a lack of sensitivity on behalf of the Title IX Office?

In the coming months, the University office designated to protect and adjudicate on behalf of its students will have yet another chance to tailor its processes to student concerns. Again, the Student Life Editorial Board hopes these concerns are translated into tangible and significant results.

On the Grammys: Have a cigar

TYLER SABLOFF
STAFF WRITER

The 60th annual Grammy Awards have come and gone, with Bruno Mars' "24K Magic" sweeping all three major categories. These results came as a surprise to many predictors—especially that Mars beat Kendrick Lamar's "DAMN." This surprising and confusing upset is just another installment of the Academy's long, proud history of being out of touch and completely risk-averse. It always confuses me how an organization whose sole goal is to award the efforts of the most prominent, important and popular musicians within a given

year could fail to do so constantly.

The biggest selling album of 1967 was "Are You Experienced?" by then-freshman artist Jimi Hendrix, yet Hendrix neither received recognition at the 10th awards, nor at any other point during his lifetime. The rest of the 1960s awards were mostly dominated by Frank Sinatra, Barbara Streisand and musical soundtracks, which I think most would agree does not provide an accurate representation of '60s music. Through the 1970s, the unquestionably biggest band in the world was Led Zeppelin, yet the only recognition they ever received was a nomination for Best New Artist at the 12th awards

(two years after their actual debut, mind you), which they lost. In 1991, the same year of Nirvana's totemic "Nevermind," which received only one nomination in the Alternative music category, Album of the Year was given to Natalie Cole for an album of duets with her late father, Nat "King" Cole, on songs that were already decades old. Oh, and they have just a slight history of, until recently, completely ignoring black artists whose names aren't Michael Jackson or Stevie Wonder.

In my opinion, the Grammys lacks two aspects that have led to this constant reoccurrence of obliviousness: youth and gall. First off, the Recording Academy

voting on nominations and winners is made up of selected voters from within the music industry who have a track record of success in the industry. The problem with that is, for the most part, popular and current music is often the providence of younger listeners, yet those who have the ability to choose which songs, albums and artists are acknowledged come from an older generation. Those voting in the '60s probably scoffed at Hendrix. Yet now, we have baby-boomers voting who idolize Hendrix but scoff at someone like Cardi B. It reminds me of a line from a song many voters of today probably recognize and adore, "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

The other part of the problem is that the Grammys seem to have a strong inclination to avoid controversy by not recognizing controversial or more politicized music. "24K Magic" beating out "DAMN."—similar to Adele's "25" beating out Beyonce's "Lemonade" from last year's awards—highlights the trend of trying to award the least threatening artist possible. This attempt to avoid controversy ends up causing more controversy. In the highly politicized climate in which we live, artists who can convey an activist energy into their art should be recognized, not sidelined in favor of the most water-down, palatable artist.

Yet, the primary outlet for recognizing music is so incredibly incapable of doing just that. Their back-room, highly exclusive and elitist approach to appreciating music is off-putting to many people in the music industry. It isn't hard to see why many artists in the past have scoffed or ignored invitations to the Grammys. I have no expectation for any of this to change ever, which is why my interest in future nominations and award ceremonies is nonexistent. The Grammys are basically meaningless if not everyone can get an equal, fair shot. Because at this point, who really cares what a bunch of music executives think deserves praise anyway?

OP-ED SUBMISSION

Why pregnancy-related deaths should matter to our student body

ANIRUDH PRABU AND
ISHAAN SHAH
CLASS OF 2020

Are you afraid of pregnancy?" I asked my friend. She responded with a sense of confusion, "I haven't really considered that. Nobody ever discusses the ways that things can go wrong." Her sentiments embody the general public's perception that pregnancy is an event that most women go through relatively unharmed. Unfortunately, the reality is that mothers die during pregnancies in recurrent high-risk scenarios. Missouri in particular has struggled to deal with maternal mortality associated with these high-risk pregnancies more so than the majority of the United States. Dr. Ebony Carter, a high-risk obstetrician at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, sums up one of the issues driving maternal

mortality rates here quite simply: "The data sucks." She highlights how OB-GYNs in Missouri don't have the tools to track risk factors associated with pregnancy risk. This makes studying the "bigger picture" extremely difficult.

Even though the data isn't great, the trend is staggeringly clear. Missouri is playing catch-up with the rest of the country. A United Health Foundation's study measured the national average maternal mortality rate at 19.9 deaths per 100,000 live births. Missouri lags behind, ranked 42nd out of 50 states with 28.5 deaths per 100,000. St. Louis County had a maternal mortality rate of 22.1 and St. Louis City had a whopping rate of 51.1. Meanwhile, multiple states have slashed maternal mortality rates to as low as 5.8 deaths per 100,000. So, what is the cause of this disparity?

While poor data collection creates significant hurdles for obstetricians to improve and monitor care, Carter believes it is not the main cause. Medical and social issues contribute to the disparity in maternal mortality rates between states like Missouri and those like California and Massachusetts. When we view this issue through the lens of how the Medicaid expansion mandate was handled differently by these states, the link between Medicaid expansion and improved maternal health becomes alarmingly clear. States such as California and Massachusetts have expanded Medicaid, which allowed many more low-income residents to sign up for health insurance. Many states—including Missouri—chose to not proceed with this expansion. Currently, in Missouri, pregnancy qualifies you for Medicaid. However, within six

weeks of delivery, these women are kicked off the program. After that, they lose the ability to get the healthcare they need to stay healthy.

With the current political landscape in Missouri, it is unlikely that Medicaid will be expanded. Regardless, we can still make progress on reducing maternal mortality by making it easier for physicians to practice and monitor their care quality.

California has already taken initiative on this issue. When the measure for maternal mortality was still being developed as a diagnostic, California decided to create a coalition of obstetricians, public health professionals and hospital administrators to reduce maternal mortality. The result was the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), a comprehensive information base and data center which gathered

and studied data on mortality rates and pregnancy complications in an unprecedented way. Multiple other states have also collaborated to create statewide Maternal Data Centers which hospitals can use to monitor and document statistics related to pregnancy risk. According to Dr. Carter, they have "nothing close" to anything like this at Barnes-Jewish.

The CMQCC was founded in 2006. Since then, the collaborative has created and implemented standardized guidelines, toolkits and webinars to educate healthcare providers on proper practices to make sure the entire care team is prepared to treat pregnancy complications. The program had unprecedented success. When the CMQCC was founded, California's maternal mortality rate was 16.9 deaths per 100,000 live births. According to the

2016 Health of Women and Children Report, California is now at six. In that same time period, the maternal mortality rate in the United States has risen and Missouri's has increased even more.

It's time for Washington University's student body to stand for improving maternal care in the St. Louis area. This is an issue that desperately needs advocacy from the local community and could use an infusion of student activism. We have over 20 student organizations focused on health promotion, many of which specifically deal with women's health. Let's educate each other about the very real dangers of pregnancy which mothers in our local community face today and advocate for improved access to perinatal care. Creating a city-wide coalition is the way we can take initiative to tackle the issue today and in the near future.

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TITLE IX from page 1

campus, setting up table tents in the Danforth University Center and Bear's Den, putting information in the Residential Life newsletter and reaching out directly to leaders of student groups.

Two listening sessions have dates set, Feb. 19 and March 29, while the third will be scheduled for the week of Feb. 26. Like last semester, two will have administrators present, including Provost Holden Thorp, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori White and Kennedy, while the third will be completely student-led. Sessions will be capped at 15 students, like last semester.

Kennedy added that administrators found the last set of listening sessions helpful for answering questions about the University's reporting and investigation process and for taking suggestions to improve education and assessment, some of which they have already begun to put into effect. Some changes—like adding information to the Title IX

website—were easy to make immediately, Kennedy said, while others, concerning the entire process, will take longer to tackle.

"Some were things that are more systemic that—I'm not saying we have to live with them, necessarily—but it'll be a much more slow kind of change to figure out how things are going to improve," Kennedy said.

Changes the University has already begun to implement from feedback received in the first set of listening sessions mainly concern issues of assessment, training and visibility.

Kennedy has employed the Relationship and Sexual Violence Initiative, a part of the Institute of Public Health in the Brown School, to assess and evaluate the current Title IX reporting and investigative process as well as the University's prevention and education efforts. The initiative, which was created in 2015 following the Sexual Assault & Relationship Violence Task Force, "aims

to develop methods that form a better public health assessment system to inform the design and evaluation of prevention programs and policies," according to its website. Kennedy said she has asked the institute to research if and how the work the University has been doing is actually making a difference in terms of education and prevention.

"They're really looking at it from that idea that we need to know if anything is working, because if it's not, we need to create something that does work," Kennedy said. "We keep being told bystander intervention is the only thing that works. Well, is that true? And what are some of the programs other than that?"

The University will also hold additional training for faculty and staff to provide information about accommodations for students who have been affected by sexual violence. Kennedy said the University will add an online training for all faculty and staff, which it plans to roll out

this semester. She also plans to hold an in-person training and a supplemental training for those who are supervisors of other employees.

Similarly, Kennedy held a supplemental training for residential advisers last month, answering mostly procedural questions they submitted ahead of time. She also plans to revamp the annual Title IX orientation trainings for RAs, which she plans to organize via her new subcommittee of the Health and Wellness Committee.

Further, Kennedy has met with the Women's Panhellenic Association and hopes to meet with individual sororities to address concerns about sexual violence in the Greek community and explain the Title IX process and the work her office does.

"A couple of people mentioned that within their student groups, people have talked about organizations they believe were being investigated for multiple incidents of sexual assault," she said, specifically citing

information being spread throughout sororities. "I feel like that's information that I needed to address and talk to them about—that what this thing that's being [talked] about is not true. And if you all believe that that is actually something that could be true, then we need to talk about the fact that the University doesn't have that information."

She also hopes that introducing herself to members of Greek life in chapter meetings will help assuage fears or anxieties any students may have in approaching her.

"People within an organization can be talking about something, and they all think something's being done about it. But if no one has actually shared it with the University then nothing is being done about it," she added. "I do think it's important for me to stand in front of people and say, 'this is what we need your help [on]'...I don't want people to think that the University is hiding something from them or that

there's been some cover-up, which there has not been."

While Kennedy admitted it will be difficult to determine how successful these efforts will be, she expects to see an increase in the number of cases reported if the University is successful in clarifying the role of the Title IX office. She also hopes that an upcoming campus climate survey will help gauge how much the University's education and awareness efforts have succeeded.

"At some point, I do hope that we'll be as well-known as other groups on campus," she said. "I think it's important for us to know what people are concerned about—for us to be visible—and we're working to establish more trust with our student body. So, making ourselves available like this is important."

While the three listening sessions will likely be the only ones for this semester, Kennedy said she expects more to be held in future years, albeit not on as regular basis as this semester.

drink & dine

[WEEKLY BAR AND RESTAURANT GUIDE]

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