## Student Life

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## **RIZE**

New WU Black newsletter aims to elevate Black student voices (Scene, pg 3)



### **ANOTHER TITLE**

Women's basketball defeats NYU, Brandeis to clinch **UAA** championship (Sports, pg 6)



### MORE WORK TO DO

Despite wins over Brandeis, NYU, men's basketball yet to clinch NCAA tournament birth (Sports, pg 6)

## **WU establishes start-up grant program** for incoming students -



### **EMMA BAKER SENIOR NEWS EDITOR**

Washington University is launching a new start-up grant program for eligible incoming students to help offset the initial cost of transitioning to college, the University announced Monday.

The first grant will consist of one \$500 portion to cover or subsidize the cost of a computer. The second is worth \$1,500 and is intended to cover essential items like winter clothes, textbooks or travel over

both semesters.

"I hope this is going to help our students who are coming from less privileged backgrounds to be able to thrive in ways where the lack of resources has stood in the way," Chancellor-elect Andrew Martin

Incoming freshmen students who receive a federal Pell Grant or whose households earn less than \$75,000 in annual family income will be eligible. The grant program is expected to cost \$1 million

Currently, almost 15 percent of students of the Class of 2022 are eligible for Pell grants. Chancellor Wrighton has said that the University hopes to have 13 percent of the undergraduate student body be Pell-eligible by 2020. Vice Provost for Admissions Ronne Patrick Turner says these grants will work to defray those start-up costs like travel and books that may influence a student's college decision.

"That transition from high school to college I think is stressful

for every single student that makes that transition. But I think it's even more stressful if you are coming from a family or background that doesn't have the resources...," Turner said. "And so we really hope that those students will be relieved a little bit of some of that anxiety and stress and feel really welcomed and supported. At Wash. U. we always talk about the Wash. U. community and how caring it is, and I think this is a great example."

While the University has

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## Student groups petition to receive block funding

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Six campus student groups are currently petitioning to receive Student Union block funding for the next year.

Each of the groups petitioning—Uncle Joe's, Emergency Support Team (EST), Lucidity, Campus Y, Bear Discounts and WUnderground—must receive 1,071 signatures, fifteen percent of the student body, by Feb. 22. Then, their budget is voted on by the student body in the SU spring election. If it passes with a two-thirds student vote, their petition is funded.

Most SU-funded groups on campus receive their funding by submitting a budget to be approved by Student Union each semester, but they wouldn't necessarily be guaranteed the full amount outlined in the budget. With block funding, however, groups are guaranteed the full amount for the entire year as long as the petition, which outlines the groups' goals and proposed budget, gets the required

SEE **FUNDING**, PAGE 2

## Title IX comment-writing period ends, Title Mine plans next actions

**NEWS EDITOR** 

The comment and notice period on Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos's proposed Title IX regulations ended Feb. 15.

The Department of Education reopened the comment period for one day only, Feb. 15, after people experienced difficulties submitting their comments to the government website for the Jan. 30 deadline.

Title Mine and WU Planned Parenthood Generation Action (WUPPGA) held two commentwriting drives Dec. 7 and Jan. 17, and provided resources for Washington University students to write and submit their own comments on the proposed regulations.

Title Mine provided a channel for students to submit their comments when the federal register was down. According to Title Mine organizer junior Luka Cai, students submitted eight comments through Title Mine.

"I think the students submitted really thoughtful comments. I think quantity matters less than quality. When I was reading through the comments it was clear that the comments were worked on by a team of students who did a lot of research and put a really structured coherent argument together," Cai said. "I really liked that as a movement, we have motivated and given students the space to write these really thoughtful comments. I want to recognize the students who didn't attend the comment-writing drives but who used the resources or who were motivated by the drives to write their own comments and I'm really heartened by that."

WUPPGA co-organizer senior Sophie Elliott said that she believes the comment-writing drives were successful.

"I think more than anything it helped raised awareness that this is an issue, because I think the government pretty deliberately kept this under wraps and didn't advertise [that] this comment-writing period was even open or available," Elliott said. "So I think it was important that people knew what these new regulations are and had a chance to voice their concerns, and I think it provided a platform for a ton of people to do

Senior Elana Ross acted as a table facilitator for the second commentwriting drive and said she thought the drives were a "great way to get people sharing frustrations and learning together."

"I wrote a comment and submitted it the day before the deadline. I do wish more people would have commented, but it's always hard attracting crowds with difficult issues and especially because Title Mine is still a new name on campus," Ross wrote in a statement to Student Life. "I hope when the inevitable and unfortunate changes this admin proposes surrounding sexual violence on campus continue, more people will keep showing up."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori White wrote a letter on behalf of Washington University on the proposed regulations; the University also submitted a comment as a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

"I actually liked Dr. White's comment more than I liked the AAU comment, because it was specific to Wash. U.'s context and describes how Wash. U.'s current process, well, to be blunt, is better than the rules being proposed," Cai said. "In the second to last paragraph of Dr. White's comments she said, 'we also are aware that some of our students are preparing to submit comments on their own behalf and we urge the Department to consider their personal stories.' I really liked that Dr. White used her own



CARRIE PHILLIPS | STUDENT LIFE

Wash. U. students attend a comment-writing drive hosted by Title Mine and WU Planned Parenthood Generation Action on Jan. 17. Students, university administrators and the AAU all submitted comments on the proposed changes to Title IX.

comment to amplify student's voices." Cai said that they believe both the University's and the AAU's com-

ments were "lacking" in addressing some of the concerns students had about the proposed Title IX regulations.

"They didn't mention at all some of these other concerns that students had, including the fact that under the new rules, schools will only need to investigate reports of unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that are so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access. That piece of how the new rules will limit the definition of sexual harassment that gives rise to investigations...is completely not mentioned at all in either comments," Cai said.

Another concern not mentioned by either comment was the reduction of universities' responsibilities for Title IX violations that occur off campus. According to Cai, that specific

regulation was a concern for many of the students at the drive.

"My comment focused on the proposed policies concerning cases that occur off campus and...would not be considered any longer under [DeVos'] new addition to the policy," Title Mine organizer Katie Gemperli said.

Missouri state legislators have introduced two bills that propose changes to Title IX policies in Missouri, allowing more protection for the accused.

"Missouri just released they want to make a policy that would raise the burden of proof and we think our next event will revolve around the state policy," Gemperli said. "Going forward we're definitely going to be focused on this same general area."

Title Mine, recently recognized as a Student Union group, will meet with Dr. White on Feb. 26, Mar. 20 and Apr. 24 to discuss Title IX policies at the University.

"We're going to be talking about the comments that Wash. U. wrote for the notice and comment period and also moving forward [with] how Wash. U. will be responding and making changes to Title IX," Cai said. "If you want to join any of these meetings or get updates from them, please reach out to Title Mine."

Title Mine plans to commemorate the April 2018 rally that kickstarted the Title Mine movement. The rally is tentatively set for April 12, 4-6 p.m. in Edison Courtyard.

"We invite everyone who's interested, who wants to see where this movement is going next [or] who wants to hear their voices heard at the rally, to email us, to reach out to us and share with us what you think the rally should be like," Cai said. "It was a really huge milestone event for Wash. U. as a campus. To me, it was a very traumatic event that at the same time also gave a lot of energy and awareness to the issues of sexual

SEE **TITLE MINE**, PAGE 2

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## theFLIPSIDE







### **EVENT CALENDAR**

#### **MONDAY 18**

#### Genetics and Genomics Science Series at Academy of Science St Louis

McDonnell Genome Institute, 4444 Forest Park Ave, 10:00 a.m.

Laura Courtney and Bob Fulton lead an exciting tour of MGI for young, future scientists as well as adults. Co-sponsored by Siteman Cancer Center, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and Children's Discovery Institute.

#### Assembly Series: Susannah Cahalan

Simon Hall May Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.

The event, free and open to the public, will focus on her new memoir, "Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness." The book chronicles her ordeal with a rare condition.

### Social Justice Week: Narratives of Injustice

GlobeMed is hosting Social Justice Week. This year's theme centers around narratives that help us better understand the personal experiences and humanity surrounding various injustices that permeate throughout the world, as well as what we can do to combat those injustices. They will be hosting various events that address diverse issues.

### **TUESDAY 19**

### Day of Discovery, Dialogue & Action

Danforth and Medical campuses, 5:00 p.m.

The Wash. U. community will come together Feb. 19-20 for the fifth annual event. This year's theme is "Dialogues Across Difference" and will focus on the ways we communicate with each other, particularly on difficult topics and during challenging times. Register for events on both Danforth and Medical campuses online.

### "And, Scene!": A Discussion About Pivotal Moments in Black Television and Film Bauer Hall Room 230, 6:00 p.m.

Olin Black will be hosting their second Black History Month event, "And, Scene!" They will be showing clips from movies and television shows that have sparked strong reaction and cultural discussions in society at large.

#### **WEDNESDAY 20**

### Lecture: "Leveraging Local Expertise to Accelerate Health Equity and Wellness in the St. Louis Region and Beyond"

The Doll & Hill Teaching Room 2131, Taylor Avenue Bldg., 12:00 p.m.

Bethany A. Johnson-Javois, MSW, Chief Executive Officer of the St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN) will speak on the IHN's role in creating partnerships between community health centers and academic institutions to improve health equity in the St. Louis region and beyond. Sponsored by Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery.

### Distinguished Visiting Scholar—"The Latino Question and the Democratic Commons."

Goldberg Formal Lounge, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Lazoro Lima, the E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts at the University of Richmond will give this public lecture. Reception beforehand starting at 3:15 p.m.

### Welcoming the Stranger to St. Louis: Religious Responses to Recent Immigrants and Refugees

Women's Building Formal Lounge, 7:00 p.m.

Anna Crosslin, President and CEO of the International Institute of St. Louis, will discuss that organization's efforts in the current climate. Following her remarks, a panel of local clergy leaders representing a range of religious traditions will discuss the actions their communities are pursuing to serve immigrants and refugees in the St. Louis area.

### EnWeek: Diversity in Engineering Panel

Simon Hall Room 023, 4:30 p.m.

Join the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and Women in Computer Science to hear engineers discuss their experiences as a diverse member of the engineering community.

### **GRANT** from page 1

emergent funds available for students once they get to campus, this is the first program of its kind for incoming students. According to Assistant Provost for Student Success Anthony Tillman, these grants will be a "game changer" for eligible students.

"I think it's going to really help parents and students and families with the planning process and give them a sense of confidence that when they do get here in August to start their classes, they will not be falling behind because they can't afford their books," Tillman said. "And for me as an educator [and] as a member of this institution, that's awesome being able to have that sense of confidence that knowing that that component of parity or equity... we're moving in [the] direction to take care of that and eradicate it so that there is no student that will not have the opportunity to start in the same space...in terms of the

they need."

The University is

materials and textbooks that

need-aware during the admissions process, meaning the admissions committee is aware of an applicant's financial status while being considered for admission. In addition to the new grants, the University will eliminate the summer earnings expectations for those students who qualify for the grants. Previously, the expectation that students earn \$1,550 was factored into financial aid.

"Students who are from under-resourced families spend a lot of time working and using their earnings to support their family, and they don't have the opportunity to save," Turner said. "And so this is something else that will alleviate students' frustration or concern or worry or anxiety about coming to college."

"I imagine that for many parents, [the grants are] also going to be a source of relief to some degree and the source of gratitude to some degree," Tillman said.

Martin says that he hopes the grants will work to combat assumptions that are made about students' socioeconomic backgrounds. He says that while students will have to work to change the culture on campus, this program was something the administration could do to ensure all students have the resources they need to be successful on campus.

"I think we need to get to a place where the way in which we interact with one another—and that's academically but that's also socially—isn't predicated on having a great personal wealth," Martin said. "That's something that students are going to have to lead. I mean administration can talk about it, but at the end of the day, students are really going to have to do the work. At the same time, particularly to provide resources so that all of our entering students can have good up-to-date technology, that they have an account that they can draw on [for] whatever they need at whenever they need it to support their academic program—I think that's going to be helpful to help ensure that they have great success."

### TITLE MINE from page 1

violence on this campus."

Cai said that Title Mine is

recruiting volunteers to help "amplify the voices of this movement" and encourages students to get involved anyway they can.

"I also want to add that these issues of sexual violence and Title IX have been primarily fought by student activists and progress has primarily been made because student activists have used their voices to raise awareness about these issues," Cai said. "So almost one year into this movement, we see that national policy changes are still making it hard for this movement to make progress."

### FUNDING from page 1

number of signatures and passes in the election.

WUnderground, the University's satirical magazine, is also circulating a \$511,000 petition to fund a boat. If they receive enough signatures, SU will have to reallocate money from the general budget to fund the petition.

WUnderground's president, senior Carter Lord Paterson, said that even though he favors the block funding process as a whole, the group's petition is designed to prove a point about the weaknesses of the system.

"We really have been advocating that for every single person we've asked to sign our petition, we've insisted that they sign the Uncle Joe's and EST petitions first, because those are far more critical services," Paterson said. "I would still fully encourage all students to support ours for the meme of it, for the shenanigan itself and to also prove a point that there is change that needs to be made towards the process so that ridiculous things like this can't happen and then all of a sudden, Student Union is scrambling to make amendments."

Sophomore Steven Kish, SU's vice president of administration, says SU is conscious of the adjustments that would have to be made if WUnderground's petition gets to 1,071 signatures.

"One of the things that is very real about this situation is that that money does have to come from somewhere," Kish said. "I think we as Student Union definitely will be as thoughtful as possible as we weigh the things that would essentially make up for that \$500,000, but also do recognize that the student body on election day would need to make some decisions about where they want their student activity

fee to be allocated."

Kish says that the amount requested would likely come from a combination of funding that otherwise would go to programming, student groups and campus contributions.

"\$500,000 is a large amount of money to cut and I think students would definitely have to carefully consider that money that they'd be letting go of," Kish said. "I think a lot of students at this point are signing the petition in a satirical way, some may be doing it seriously. I think that we will have to play out in the coming week as we get closer to the petition submission deadline to really have a better feel for whether or not they'll reach that 1,071 mark."

VP of Finance and junior Shelly Gupta says that as of the past few years, approximately \$100,000 is petitioned via block funding.

"Senate and Treasury will have to really be critical," Gupta said. "We already have a deficit of \$500,000, so adding another \$500,000 potentially could make the job much harder, but we will have to pass a budget assuming that the block funding will go through."

The leaders of 11 student groups recently published an op-ed in Student Life citing the consequences of the boats' funding for their respective groups.

"As funny as it would be to have SU pay for this boat, that \$511,000 needs to go towards student group programming, which we see as SU's primary purpose," the authors wrote. "Our student groups already do not receive all the money we request from SU and we don't know what we would do if our funds have to be cut further."

that the student body on election day would need to make SU proposed an amendment have made on some decisions about where that would have lowered the would not be put they want their student activity number of signatures required block funding."

and allowed groups to pursue alternative methods of receiving block funding, but it did not pass.

Junior Daniel Tanenbaum, co-owner of Bear Necessities, is currently petitioning so that every undergraduate student would have a discount card. He also served on the SU task force that proposed the amendment to lower signatures for block funding petitions.

"I found that it's helpful for every student to benefit the same. If we were to get block funding then we would use the money to distribute it to any student," Tanenbaum said. "Whereas right now, the business currently sells the cards at the beginning of the year and not everyone has access to that if they choose not to pay for it. So we're trying to limit the barrier of entry and distribute it to everyone."

Tanenbaum said that the process in general was beneficial to the campus and encouraged students to participate.

"I would encourage people to vote for all the petitions," Tanenbaum said. "There's no limit to how many you can sign. Overall, it benefits the community."

Treasurer of Campus Y junior Megan Schulman said that getting enough signatures is crucial for the future success of her group. Campus Y encompasses 25 student-run volunteer programs that focus on a variety of issues.

"Our group will be at a tremendous loss if we do not meet our goal," Schulman said. "The Campus Y would be unable to function as a student organization. The work our programs have done and the impact the Y volunteers have made on the community would not be possible without block funding."

### News in Brief: WUGWU campaign, Day of Dialogue, NEH fellowships

NEWS EDITORS

### WUGWU launches Valentines campaign

Washington University
Graduate Workers Union
(WUGWU) launched a
Valentine's Day-themed campaign to advocate for their
Fight for \$15 campaign, an
action for graduate students
and Washington University
employees to be paid a living

wage.

University community members filled out Valentines-themed templates with messages about paying Washington University workers a living wage through a form on WUGWU's webpage. People wrote cards themselves in the Danforth University Center in the days leading up to Feb. 14.

WUGWU hand-delivered the cards to administrators during a rally that took place at 12 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Messages included:
"[Wash. U.] / say I do /

Want to pay workers a living wage! \$15/h for all and free childcare," physics graduate student Katie Randolph wrote.
"Roses are expensive, our

request is small, please give \$15 and childcare for all," english graduate student Trent McDonald wrote.

"Roses are Red / Violets are blue / Let's have a campus where \$15/hr is true. Share the wealth, Wash. U.," anthropology graduate student Natalia Solano wrote.

WUGWU is currently

planning a \$15 & Childcare for All Candlelight Vigil for Mar.

### Washington University to host Day of Dialogue

Irshad Manji will be the keynote speaker for Washington University's annual Day of Discovery, Dialogue & Action programming. She is an author, educator and supports a reformist interpretation of

The Day of Dialogue, established in 2015, serves as an open forum to discuss diversity and inclusion at Washington University. Manji's keynote address will take place Tuesday evening in the Eric P. Newman Education Center on the Medical Campus. Her most recent book, "Don't Label Me: An Incredible Conversation for Divided Times" will be available later this month, but the first 250 attendees will receive advanced copies.

The following day will open with an address from Chancellor-elect Andrew Martin and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori White. There will also be panels featuring University members whose roles were created to create a more inclusive campus and a screening of the film on the history of St. Louis' black hospital, called "The Color of Medicine." There will also be excursion opportunities to Gateway Arch National Park and the Old Courthouse.

Keeline, Schmidt

## awarded NEH fellowships

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded fellowships to Thomas Keeline and Leigh Eric Schmidt, members of Washington University's College of Arts & Sciences

Keeline is an assistant professor in the Department of Classics, and Schmidt is the Edward C. Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

Both Keeline and Schmidt will receive \$60,000 from NEH to support their research. Keeline will use his grant towards his research on the Roman poet Ovid, titled "Latin Textual Scholarship in the Digital Age: An Open-Access Critical Edition of Ovid's Ibis and its Scholia." According to his College of Arts & Sciences profile, Schmidt is a historian "who has written extensively on American spiritual seeking, holiday conflicts, evangelical Protestantism and liberal religious traditions."

The NEH awarded the fellowships in December along with 82 other grants, totaling \$4.6 million, to support "college and university teachers and independent scholars pursuing advanced research."

Editor's note: Two Student Life staff members will participate in this year's Day of Discovery, Dialogue, and Action as speakers and panelists.

## SCENE

## Rize newsletter creates outlet for Black student voices

JADEN SATENSTEIN SENIOR SCENE EDITOR

Rize, Washington University's independent Black student newsletter, made its first appearance on campus February 1, when the paper published its first ever issue.

However, for sophomore and Rize Editor-in-Chief Efua Osei, the inspiration for Rize came from publications that existed on campus decades ago. When examining Washington University archives for a class this past August, Osei discovered multiple Black student publications, including the Black Collegian, which was published from 1968 to 1971.

"Looking at the Black Collegian, it was just so cool just because I have a love for just newspapers in general," Osei said.
"Just about the layout, the design, getting the news. Just bringing communities together through that mode of information sharing. And so to know that this existed on campus in the late '60s, '70s—it was just so cool."

The Black Collegian was created during a pivotal time in the University's racial history, as it was first published in 1968, the same year as the Brookings Hall sit-in, an eight day occupation of Brookings Hall by the Association of Black Collegians (ABS) in protest of the low enrollment

and mistreatment of Black students at Wash. U. ABS expressed their demands in the "Black Manifesto," a document pressing the University to increase Black student enrollment and financial aid as well as create a Black Studies department, which eventually became the African and African-American Studies department.

Osei, a political science and African and African-American studies double major from Dover, Del., has been active in the Black student community through the African Student Association, Association of Black Students and serving as assistant choreographer of Black Anthology.

Recognizing the opportunity that the Black Collegian provided for Black students to share their views and experiences, Osei realized the importance of reinstituting a similar platform for current students, thus inspiring to her to use her love for newspapers to create a new Black student publication.

"I feel like there's nothing that currently centers around Black students in the way that the Black Collegian did, which is something that I felt needed to be brought back, and it was something that I really had a passion for," Osei said.

The paper had its first meeting in November 2018, during which

those interested in being involved discussed content the paper could feature. This staff conceptualized the publication's name when brainstorming possible titles for a piece on Moonlight Breakfast, during which many Black students gather to celebrate the end of the semester through music, dancing and food—a tradition referred to as "Moonlit Breakfast."

The word "rise" was proposed by sophomore Cece Heard as a possible aspect of the article's title; however, Osei and fellow meeting attendees thought that the word would be perfect for not only the title of that particular piece but the entire paper. The decision to use a "z" instead of an "s" was rooted in the active nature of words ending in "ize."

"[Heard] was talking about how, in terms of the other things we were talking about, rising above and just the word 'rise' and how that has certain connotations in the Black community, but also words like 'revitalize, reorganize' things that have the 'R,' 'IZE' ending and then kind of putting that together," Osei said. "It looks good to me, aesthetically. 'Rize' just looks good, it sounds great, it can be applied to so many different things, talking about revitalization, reorganization, realization."

After spending the first few weeks back from

about how rarely they

cancel class. Peak flu

season: You get an email

from a different professor

every day. Said email is a

because they've become

3. You have to leave

during the middle of

an exam to blow your

the flu.

ill with this plague we call

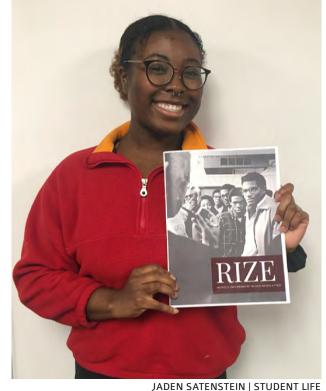
notification cancelling class

winter break creating and designing content, Rize released its first issue February 1. Independent from the University and Student Union, the paper received funding to print 50 issues from the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, also releasing a digital version of the paper through its Facebook page, which was circulated to Black alumni through support from the Black Alumni Council.

Though Osei acknowledges the extra financial constraints of being independent from Wash.
U., she believes that the paper's independence is vital to accomplishing its goal of being an open platform for Black students to freely use their voices.

"[Being independent] means that we have the freedom to say the things that we would like to say and allow people to view our thoughts, our feelings and our emotions and our words unfiltered," Osei said. "Being independent really takes away any stipulations that can be put on you and put on your art and your work and your words."

Rize is officially referred to as "WUSTL's Independent Black Newsletter" on its cover; however, Osei expressed that she finds it difficult to categorize the paper as either a magazine, newsletter or newspaper, as it contains elements of all three. She plans to



Rize's editor-in-chief, Efua Osei, poses with the first issue of Washington University's independent Black student newsletter.

begin referring to Rize as a newspaper and hopes that by acquiring more funding, Rize will become a monthly publication.

The staff is currently working on its second issue, which Osei plans to publish in April. Her goal is to use the paper as a way to showcase Black student, alumni and faculty accomplishments in order to establish more connections between those different facets of the Wash. U. Black community.

"I really want people to—I think in terms of real ambitions, looking at the kind of the reach that the Black Collegian had and looking at how it really brought together people in the Black community, the small community that it was in 1968, and it really got people excited to do things," Osei said. "It showcased people's voices, people's talents, people's words, what they were feeling. And [they] weren't afraid to let people know what they were feeling."

Osei encouraged all those interested in Rize to get involved through writing, designing and/or assisting with operational logistics. Students can contact the organization through their Facebook page, Rize Media, or by email at rizemedia.wustl@gmail.com.

## Soup, symptoms and sneezes: Seven signs you know it's flu season at WU

JORDAN COLEY STAFF WRITER

Imagine this: Your semester's just starting to pick up, and you're super stressed because midterms are two weeks away. In the midst of all of that, you realize you're sick! And concurrently, so are all of your friends! So, without further ado, here are eight telltale signs it's flu season at Washington University.



to go to your 9 a.m. because you just don't want to wake up, now you want to go to class but can't because you physically cannot get out of bed. Truly an ironic turn of events.

2. Your professors cancel class because they're sick.

Syllabus week:

Many in-class exams on campus are timed, which means they probably won't account for the fact that you have zero working nostrils. Committed to the academic grind, you decide to try to suffer through an hour or two of just not blowing your nose. Eventually, you realize you can't even stand the sound of your own sniffing. Subsequently, you're left to leave your exam room, go to the restroom to blow your nose and return as soon as physically possible. This endeavor is an exorbitantly stressful thirty seconds.

4. You realize how scarce chicken noodle soup is on campus.

Normally, a Wash. U. student's go-to comfort

student's go-to comfort food is a half and half-bad for the body yet good for the soul. In the harrows of flu season, the only thing you feel comforted by is soup. Particularly, chicken noodle soup. Soon, you'll (disappointingly) find out that there isn't any alreadycooked chicken noodle soup available in Bear's Den. Theoretically, you could buy a can from Paws & Go or the Village, but that would require you to subsequently prepare it for yourself. Objectively, this isn't a lofty request, but in your sick and fatigued mind that is a lot to ask. In this quest for comfort food, you finally notice how little chicken noodle soup is actually available on campus.

5. The flu becomes a campus-wide affair.

When sick, one may be apt to stay away from peers

because they don't want to infect anyone else. However, this is not a sentiment that's common on college campuses. Here, you tell someone you have the flu and their response is usually something along the lines of, "Same!" or, "Yeah, I think I'm coming down with it too." Essentially, nearly everyone on campus has come down with the same illness. Who got who sick? The world may never know. But one thing's for sure: If you've got the flu in college, a multitude of your peers probably have it as well.

6. You don't know if you have flu symptoms because you're sick or because you're stressed.

It's common knowledge that stress can manifest itself in physical ways, and it's also common knowledge that Wash. U. is a hard school. So, when it's midterms and all of your friends are sick, you're not sure if you're fatigued and headache-y because you're just very stressed or you're actually coming down with the flu. Sad.

7. You take medicine!

As we all know, getting the flu is quite a pain. You have a fever and various other symptoms for days on end, and it's just generally not a good experience. Additionally, it can be an added stressor on top of your typical college coursework. So, if you do get the flu, make sure to take medicine so you can recover faster! Your wellbeing is important, and once you take measures to improve it, you'll hopefully feel healthier and happier. And if you haven't come down with the flu yet, consider getting a flu shot! They help decrease your chances of contracting the virus, and maybe you'll even get a nice Hello Kitty Band-Aid to cover up the injection spot. Remember guys, health is wealth.

## **Student Life**

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# H()RUM

### STAFF EDITORIAL

## New grant programs represent progress toward future goals

ashington University announced two new grant programs to help eligible incoming students to the University. The programs include a \$500 grant to help offset the cost of a computer and a \$1,500 annual startup grant to help students with fees associated with being a Wash. U. student, such as flights, winter coats, textbooks and other needs. Recipients of these grants

will be determined during the admissions process, and the first packages will be issued this year with the incoming class of first-year students. Pell Grant-eligible students will automatically be covered by the program.

The Student Life Editorial Board sees these efforts as a step in the right direction towards a more socioeconomically-diverse student body and ensuring that students have the resources and support they need to thrive at Wash. U. These grant

programs address students' very real concerns, and the flexibility of the start-up grant allows recipients to apply those funds to their own individual needs.

However, because the grants will be of such tangible benefit to students, we implore the University to consider instituting a program that provides assistance to students beyond their first year of college (it is our understanding that the grants are a one-time allocation).

These grants also are part

of a larger goal of making Wash. U. more welcoming to less-privileged students, which has led to other recent changes such as the introduction of application fee waivers, self-reported standardized test scores and a lowered Bear Bucks deposit threshold. However, many of our peer institutions already have similar programs to the recently announced grants; and while this additional aid will be attractive to students that are choosing between universities and

their respective aid packages during admissions season, we as a University can do more than just play catch-up.

If the University truly wants to prioritize supporting students from low-income backgrounds, the most important step forward is instituting a need-blind admissions policy. Chancellor Mark Wrighton recently called need-blind admissions "an ideal we can work towards" in an October interview with Student Life and cautioned that the shift would be a

financial challenge for the University. Despite the move's expected challenges, we feel that pivoting to need-blind admissions is a necessary change to encourage socioeconomic diversity within the student body at Wash. U., and to emphasize the University's status as a non-profit educational institution. The new grant programs and other smaller changes are a good start, but they ultimately cannot stand in place of a need-blind admission system.

## Silence is golden

**KYA VAUGHN** STAFF WRITER

't's practically a universally-known truth that few people really, truly enjoy going to class. Even if you enjoy the subject, it's undoubtedly a struggle to will yourself out of bed and mentally prepare to trudge to class in subzero temperatures to get to that 9 a.m. (seriously, climate change is undeniably existent at this point, don't even try to convince me otherwise). All the pain and suffering you

went through to get to that class, you'd think you and your peers would come to class alert and attentive, ready to see your hard work pay off, right? Well, apparently not. We've all fallen victim to the occasional text or mindless Instagram scroll during a lecture. The I-stayed-upuntil-2-a.m.-watching-Netflix nod off, or simply your mind being elsewhere. It's safe to say that's it's almost human nature. Listening to the same content for long periods of time, we get it, even if it did take all the effort in the world to get there, some lectures can just be tiring.

However, there is one lecture pastime that most of us would deem inexcusable: the chatting. It's one thing if you show a friend a meme or two during the course of the hour, or even let out a laugh every now and then. Once again, it's human nature. But there is a line that must be drawn between occasional chatting and habitual in-class conversation. There are some who, sad to say, do not know that this line exist. I'm here to tell you that it does, and

the rest of the class would appreciate it if you learned that it exists, too.

Let's start with the "beginning of class chatting." You know, the kind that endures even after the professor begins lecture due to the few people that, for some reason, choose not to acknowledge that fact. I can't tell you how much information I've lost in those beginning few minutes due to this alone. The professors don't stop, that information keeps coming but I can promise you it's not going in my notebook

or the notebooks of those around me. Why? Because we can't hear. We live in the age of technology, if you really need to talk, can't you just text each other? But aside from the introductory conversation, those elongated conversations always remain. It's easy to get distracted, enthralled in the conversation of the group of people behind you, the conversation that just doesn't seem to die. And once you're in, there's no going back. Tuning out of that conversation and back into lecture becomes quite

difficult; so, it's better to just leave the conversation for later.

You might really be amped for your Friday night, and by all means you should be, but the rest of us would much rather learn the exam content than be made aware of your Seoul Taco plans. The job of a professor is to make sure they give you the information you need. Whether you choose to listen and accept that information is your prerogative—but please, don't make that choice for those around you.

## The dark side of the Underpass

**THOMAS HUMPHREY** STAFF WRITER

et me start this off with a disclaimer: I think what Washington University has done with the Underpass is great. It supplies a creative space to advertise campus events better than flyers or posters ever could. But consider my state of mind as I enter the Underpass, tired and dehydrated on the way to class, and you can begin to see the foundation of complaints. That Underpass, the cool, hip, unique thing on all the Wash. U. tours and pamphlets, has caused me a lot

To set the scene, it's 9 a.m., overcast, 30 degrees. You're walking away from the worst, driest Bear's Den egg sandwich you've ever had, feeling your core body temperature drop and it starts to drizzle. "Good thing I'm so close to the Underpass!" you might say, hoping to escape the eternal dampness of a Midwestern winter. What you get instead is a punch in the face—whiplash from the wind that careens through the tunnel like the vengeance of god himself. A nice pick-me-up that wind is, but not quite as lovely as the putrid, stinking garbage water that

piles up above the eternally clogged drains.

Water, in general, is the greatest enemy of the Underpass. It piles up in the cracks and the crevasses; it ruins the hard work of those who painstakingly painted the sphere and the pyramid, liquefying the designs into a dripping, twisted visage of whatever festival they were promoting. To make matters worse, there is also the psychological damage that the Underpass causes due to that false hope of refuge from the rain, a shattered illusion as you leave the constructed urban cavern and return to the reality of February weather in the Midwest. Alright, big deal, these just sound like more weather complaints, right? No, because it is not only in bad weather that the Underpass brings pain, its poor design alone torments me daily.

Let's take a moment to examine the feng shui of the Underpass, specifically in the context of garbage can placement. Picture this: four cans, slightly offset from the wall, at each of the tunnel's four corners, breaking up the flow of both energy and people. This is the worst possible arrangement and is the biggest source of pain anywhere on the Washington University

campus, maybe the world. If Satan was personally in charge of the garbage can placement for the Underpass, this is what he would have come up with. Problem number one is the high likelihood of pedestrian crashes—anyone tempted to cut between the cans and the wall has zero visibility around the corner. You can't slow down or do anything to prevent a crash once you are locked in. From a logistical standpoint, there is also the issue of the separation of trash types: the recycling cans are exclusively on one end of the Underpass, making me walk all the way to the other side of the tunnel to

ditch my recycling.

But the biggest problem that comes out of this, the whole reason I am writing this article, is the collateral damage that comes from the one-two combo of wet paint and trash can placement. In a rush, you might just cut through the trash can gap without even thinking about the level of risk you have accepted. Because your backpack just hit the wall as you were turning, it leaves you with a scarlet letter—newsflash, that paint is never coming off-a permanent mark of humiliation, a reminder that, once again, you have been claimed by the power of the Underpass.

### **OP-ED SUBMISSION**

## Think before you sign: Block funding isn't a joke

STUDENT GROUP **LEADERS** 

ear Washington University Students, We are writing on behalf of our student groups asking you all to please understand what it means to sign a block funding petition. For each group currently petitioning for signatures, once they get 15 percent of the student body to sign off,

their funds will be promised in Student Union's next budget. Signing these petitions is not a joke like canceling school for a dayeach petition's success will have a lasting impact to our campus next year.

Currently, there is a deficit of more than \$500,000 for SU to find a way to balance, and with almost \$600,000 in active block funding petitions, that poses a risk to many of the groups and programs that Student Union

currently supports. Many of these events are held by student groups like ours, and we cannot imagine a year without Diwali, dance showcases, competitions, speaker events and a cappella concerts. The reality is, though, that this might be the case next year. SU's money is finite.

WUnderground, our school's satirical newspaper, has the largest petition request: \$511,000 for a boat. Yes, a boat. As funny as it

would be to have SU pay for this boat, that \$511,000 needs to go towards student group programming, which we see as SU's primary purpose. Our student groups already do not receive all the money we request from SU and don't know what we would do if our funds have to be cut further.

This is by no means telling you to not support any of the block funding petitions, but an ask to be intentional with the

decisions you make.

Thank you, Anu Balasubramanian, Group Coordinator of Sur Taal Laya A Cappella Jake Bjork, Coordinator for Connections\*

Kuu Chen, Treasurer and Co-Director of WashU Hip-Hop Kelsey Donovan, President of

WashU Hip-Hop Union Ashwathy Goutham, President of WashU Raas Megan Khu, President of the

Vietnamese Students Association Rithvik Kondai, Co-President of Ashoka

Aumesh Misra, President of WashU Bhangra Sumil Nair, President of

WashU Chaahat Sofia Orelo, Co-President of the Association of Latin

American Students Shayana Seneviratne, Co-President of Ashoka Angela Yang, Co-President of

Chinese Students Association Patrick Zhou, Co-President of Chinese Students Association

### OUR VOICE: EDITORIAL BOARD

Staff editorials reflect the consensus of our editorial board. The editorial board operates independently of our newsroom and includes members of the senior staff and forum section editors.

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the editor and op-ed submissions from our readers. Submissions may be sent to letters@studlife. com and must include the writer's name, class and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 350 words in length, and readers may

We welcome letters to

also submit longer op-eds of up to 750 words. We reserve the right to print any submission as a letter or op-ed. Any submission chosen for publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Student Life, nor does publication mean Student Life supports said submission.

### **OUR WEB POLICY**

Once an article is published on studlife. com, it will remain there permanently. We do not remove articles or authors' names from the site unless an agreement was reached prior to July 1, 2005.



### **Upcoming Events: February 22 - March 1**

Hall, Room 117

18 7 PM: Digital Portfolio: The Portfolio Alternative (for Architecture Students), Givens 19

12 PM: Public Health Speaker Series: Brown School, Hillman Hall, Clark-Fox Forum

4 PM: Search Acceleration Team, Med Campus (for Graduate students & Post Docs), Farrell Learning and Teaching Center (FLTC), Room 201

6 PM: Google Information **Session**, (For CS Majors) Applied CS Workshop, Bauer Hall, Room 330

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Center)

1 PM: Summer Unpaid **Internship Stipend Program** - Quick Question Walkin Hours, DUC, Room 110 (Career Center)

4 PM: Search Acceleration **Team.** Danforth Campus (for Graduate students & Post

Docs), DUC, Room 111 (Career

7 PM: Portfolio Speed Review (for Architecture Students), Givens Hall, Room 118

1 PM: KeepTruckin **Information Session** (For CS Majors) DUC, Room 239

5 PM: Ascension **Technologies Information** Session, DUC, Room 241

8 AM: Code with a Cause, Off-campus

12 PM: Lunch with a Pro: Portfolio Discussion (for Architecture Students): Meet practicing architects, Givens Hall, Room 118

1 PM: Work Group: Government, Politics, and **Public Policy Internships** and Jobs, DUC, Room 234

2 PM: Introductions and **Elevator Pitches** (for Graduate Engineering students), Cupples II, Room L011

4 PM: **Engineering Center** of St. Louis Career Fair & **Happy Hour**, Off-campus

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Career Center Quick Question Drop In Hours:

All Students: Mon – Fri, 10 am -5 pm , Career Center, DUC 110, No appointment needed

Graduate Students: Fridays, 10 am– noon, Career Center, ĎÚC 110, No appointment needed

Architecture Students: Every other Saturday, 9:30 am – noon, Steinberg Hall, Room 005, 15 minute appointments for portfolio review

**Art Students:** Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm, Steinberg Hall, Room 005, 10 minute

Engineering Students: Mon – Thurs, 1:30 – 4 pm, Lopata Hall, Room 303, No appointment needed

**Graduate Engineering Students:** Mon, 1:30 – 4 pm Lopata Hall, Room 203, No

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4 PM: Search Acceleration Team, Med Campus (for Graduate students & Post Docs), Farrell Learning and Teaching Center (FLTC), Room

4 PM: Bevond Museums: **Career Paths in Arts and Culture**, DUC, Room 278 (Goldberg Formal Lounge)

6 PM: BNP Paribas Information Session, Knight Hall, Room 301

7 PM: Success at the Fair (for Architecture Students), Givens Hall, Kemp Auditorium

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11 AM: ScribeAmerica Info Table, DUC, Tisch Commons

11 AM: College Bound Info Table, DUC, Tisch Commons

2 PM: Centene Corporation Ouick Connect Event with pizza and cookies, DUC, Room 110 (Career Center Lobby)

2 PM: T-Rex Employer Event, Off-campus

2 PM: STL Tech Talent and **Job Fair**, Off-campus

4 PM: Search Acceleration **Team**, Danforth Campus (for Graduate students & Post Docs), DUC, Room 111 (Career Center)

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1 PM: Aurora Innovation Information Session, DUC, Room 234 (Presentation Room)

5 PM: Careers in Higher **Administration - Panel** Discussion, DUC, Room 278 (Goldberg Formal Lounge)

5-8 PM: **2019 Architecture Urban Design | Landscape Architecture Career Fair**, **DUC, Tisch Commons** 

4 PM: University of Wisconsin - Madison **Information Session**, DUC, Room 240

8 AM: **WE Local St. Louis**, Offcampus

12 PM: Mock Coding Interview Lab, DUC, Room

1 PM: Work Group: **Government, Politics, and Public Policy Internships** and Jobs, DUC, Room 234 (Presentation Room)

4 PM: PickHacks Athletics-Themed Hackathon, Offcampus

Log into CAREERlink for more information and to RSVP: careercenter.wustl.edu/careerlink



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# SPORIS

### Women's basketball beats NYU, Brandeis to take UAA crown

**HEMAN DUPLECHAN** STAFF REPORTER

In a weekend of highscoring games, the Washington University basketball women's team picked up two big wins against New York University and Brandeis and clinched the UAA regular season title, punching their ticket to the NCAA Division III basketball

tournament this March.

Bears out their weekend on Friday against New York University. NYU, coming off of a win against Carnegie Mellon last Sunday, came into the game hoping to knock off a Wash. U. team that had won 11 of its last 12 games. The Bears knew their main objective had to be slowing down NYU's



GRACE BRUTON | STUDENT LIFE Stephanie Botkin goes up for a layup against Brandeis Sunday. Botkin scored 16 points as the Bears beat the Judges 89-70.

game started out with the Bears hitting the mark offensively, as they jumped out to a 20-12 lead in the first quarter. NYU would battle back with big second and third quarters, placing importance on the final quarter of play. The Bears turned up their play when it mattered most. Freshman forward Samantha Weaver came up huge for the Bears down the stretch, scoring nine of her 12 points in the fourth

quarter to help the Bears regain the lead. From there, the Bears would successfully close the game out for their first victory of the weekend, and their

Janean Cuffee, the top

scorer in the UAA. The

12th win in 13 games. Senior forward Madeline Homoly had another great night, putting up a game-high 24 points. Both teams' benches also came through in big ways, as NYU narrowly edged out the Bears 29-28 in bench scoring. Where the Bears separated themselves was offensive efficiency. Along with her 24 points, Homoly shot an impressive 10-15 (67 percent) from the field, with the team shooting nearly 50 percent from the field. Finally, the Bears won on a lot of the game's hustle plays, out rebounding NYU 39-30, while also outscoring them in fast break points. Overall, this game was another



GRACE BRUTON | STUDENT LIFE

The Wash. U. bench celebrates a three-point shot by the Bears during their game against Brandeis Sunday afternoon. Wash. U. beat Brandeis 89-70, clinching a UAA championship.

good performance in the books for the Bears. While Cuffee did have 19 points, the Bears succeeded in slowing down NYU's other offensive threats, helping the Bears to a 71-58 win.

Wash. U. was back in action on Sunday against Brandeis. The Bears came into this game in better spirits than their opponents, as Brandeis was looking to avenge an 85-68 loss to the University of Chicago on Friday. The Bears picked up another quality win against Brandeis, winning by a

score of 89-70.

The game started off tight between the two teams, as both squads' offenses came out firing. By the end of the first quarter of play, the Bears held a narrow 20-19 lead over Brandeis. However, the second and third quarter was all Wash. U. Helped by great offensive performances by senior guard Rachael Sondag and senior forward Stephanie Botkin, the Bears outscored Brandeis by a combined 53-29 for the

second and third quarter. What helped the Bears

separate themselves was their three-point shooting. The Bears shot 42 percent from three to Brandeis' 37.5 percent. During the Bears' second quarter surge, Sondag shot 5-9 from beyond the arc, helping the Bears to establish a healthy lead. From there, they didn't look back, as Wash. U. cruised to another impressive win.

Next weekend, the Bears will be at home for Senior Day, as they will play their last regular season game against No. 23 Chicago on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m.

### Men's basketball comes up short in UAA title hunt despite two wins over weekend

**MIGUEL CAMPOS** STAFF REPORTER

The Washington University men's basketball team bested New York University and Brandeis University this weekend, but their efforts weren't enough to give them a chance to capture

On Friday night, they tipped off against NYU, still in contention for the conference title. If they took care of business, and the University of Rochester and Emory both lost, Wash. U. still had a chance to compete for first in the UAA.

a UAA championship.

Though results elsewhere were important, the Bears first had to deal with the Bobcats. Checking NYU junior forward Dom Cristiano and sophomore guard Bobby Hawkinson were focuses for the Bears' game plan. Cristiano was in the top five in the conference in scoring and rebounding entering the game, and Hawkinson was in the top five in the conference in field goal percentage.

Following a brief two and a half minute scoring dry spell, Hawkinson was the first to draw blood with an and-one layup conversion inside the paint off the foul by Wash. U. junior center Hank Hunter. The low scoring would persist for a majority of the first half, as it took

digits. Wash. U. managed to capitalize on whatever points they got at a rate better than that of NYU, and they lead by as much as 11 points with just over five minutes left in the half. Sophomore guard Jack Nolan helped them accomplish this control of the tempo with his contribution of 13 points in the first half. The half would eventually end with a comfortable sevenpoint lead for Wash. U. with a score of 30-23 as the Bears and Bobcats headed back into the locker rooms.

The second half indeed started off with a bit of a bang, as Wash. U. went on a quick 7-0 run highlighted by the steal by freshman forward Justin Hardy that was quickly followed by a smooth slam dunk. NYU would answer right back, making a valiant effort to catch up and narrow the gap, but they were only moderately successful at doing so. They were only able to trim the lead down to four points, but, thanks to Wash. U. junior guard Matt Nester, the gap did not stay so narrow. Scoring 14 points in the last ten minutes of the game, including five of six from the field and four of five on his three-point shots, Nester made it difficult for NYU to find their way back into the game. The dominance

slightly over seven minutes by Nester in the second half for either team to hit double paved the way for Wash. U to take the victory with a final score of 73-54.

> Nester had a career day, dropping 22 points, three rebounds and assists a piece, and two steals to top off his final box score. NYU's Hawkinson did not trail by much, as he scored a total of 17 points and hauled in a team tie for best with eight rebounds. Wash. U. junior guard Jonathan Arenas hauled in a game high of 11 rebounds. Overall, Wash. U. shot 50 percent from the field, 45 percent from threepoint land, score 19 points off of NYU turnovers and had decent bench contribution, with 18 points coming off of the pine.

> The next game was against Brandeis University, who was not far behind Wash. U. in the standings, with a 7-5 record (compared to Wash. U.'s 8-4 record) coming into Sunday

> morning's showdown. The first half played out very similarly to Friday night's game, as both teams struggled to score. The game was tightly contested early. There were six lead changes in the first half, with Brandeis leading by as much as seven and Wash. U. leading by as much as three. A fade away jumper by freshman forward Kameron Mack gave Wash. U. the one point edge as both



Wash. U. guard Matt Nester takes a three-point jump shot against Brandeis University. Nester made both of his three-pointers and scored 12 points to help the Bears to a 75-54 victory. coasted to a 75-54 victory.

Notable game statistics

teams headed to the locker room with the score standing at 29-28.

The second half picked up where the first half left off, with constant back and forth blows. For the first eight minutes, Wash. U. held the lead, but Brandeis stayed within striking distance. Wash. U. took control in the last 12 minutes. A brief 7-0 run gave Wash. U. the separation that they needed as Brandeis began to lose their focus and start shooting more out of desperation. The game was never in question after this point, and as the Bears

include double digit scoring from four of the five Wash. U. starters, with Nolan scoring a game-high 23 points, followed by Hardy and Nester with 12 apiece, and Arenas with 10 points. Hunter lead the game in rebounds as he hauled in 14 by the end of the early afternoon. Overall, Wash. U. shot 51.8 percent from the field, 35.5 percent from three-point land, outrebounded Brandies by 10 and lead Brandeis in second

chance points and points in

the paint.

Wash. U. is now in third place in the conference behind Emory University and University of Rochester, who play each other on the final day of the regular season. This scheduling means that despite two wins this weekend, the Bears will be cut out from the top of the UAA standings no matter what happens next week.

Wash. U. will attempt to finish the season strong and make their case for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament against the University of Chicago on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. in Field House.

## Van Cleave shines as Bears place second, fourth at UAA Championships

**DORIAN DEBOSE** 

**SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR** 

The Washington University swimming and diving team competed in the UAA Championship this weekend. Many individual Bears swam to top

finishes over the four-day competition as the men and women's teams placed second and fourth, respectively.

Senior Kevin Van Cleave was named UAA men's swimmer of the year. Van Cleave posted seven all-UAA finishes and placed

first in the 200-meter breaststroke, 100-meter breaststroke and 200-meter individual medley. Saturday, Van Cleave posted a 2:00:49 in the 200-meter breaststroke, his season best time and an NCAA Division III B Cut time.

Senior Brandon Lum also managed to post a top time in the championship. Lum swam the 200-meter butterfly in 1:47.71 to place first on Saturday.

Other Bears posting B Cut times were freshmen Kiki Bonetta-Misteli.

Grace Carey, Dale, Kevin Hao, Nathan Katz, Rick Reinhard, and Jack Smithson; sophomores Sabrina Baxamusa and Elle Pollitt; juniors Max Cardwell, Catherine Cowin, Simon Deshusses, Stephanie Li, Michael

Mollie Seidner, Chase Van Patten and Peyton Wilson; and seniors Andrew Pek and Lauren

The Bears will continue their season next weekend, Feb. 22-23, at the Midwest Invite in Chicago.

## (AI) FNZA

## Sophomore a cappella star stuns in collegiate, professional shows

**LEAH HARDGROVE** STAFF WRITER

While he is a part of the Washington University Amateurs, sophomore Ben Vance is an a cappella professional. For most of his life, Vance has been creative and musically-inclined, but a cappella especially has shaped who he is today.

Through playing cello for his middle school's music department, Vance made several close friends in choir who always encouraged him to audition for the ensemble, but he never really pursued it until sophomore year of high school. Since then, a cappella has been a central part of his

"I love the bond that producing music with other people creates. Something about it is so special and unique," Vance remarked, sharing that he has met some of his closest friends through a cappella. The best part of

being in the Amateurs, for Vance, is the people. "When you have to spend upwards of seven hours a week with the same people every week of the semester, you really do become a family. You have love for them, even when you do want to punch them directly in the eyeball."

This connection he built with his collegiate team has brought so much into Vance's life. After an Amateurs alumna recommended him to the professional a cappella group Hyannis Sound, Vance submitted an audition tape, attended numerous in-person audition rounds in Boston, and eventually earned a spot amongst nine other group members as tenor and public relations manager. For the first part of last summer, he spent six hours a day rehearsing and bonding with his group members. A few weeks later, Hyannis Sound transitioned into performing weekly concerts and singing

at private events. Throughout the rest of the break, Vance continued to perform in Cape Cod, Mass. with his group at private events while simultaneously meeting new people, working on his talents and wearing a lot of Vineyard

Many of Vance's favorite memories have been from his a cappella experiences. "Probably the coolest performance I've ever been a part of was in my senior year in high school, when my group got to perform at the Beacon Theatre in New York City for the International Championship of Collegiate a Cappella finals." As a member of one of the top three teams, Vance and his school group performed to a sold-out crowd during the judges' deliberation. "It was absolutely amazing, and I will never forget it." Performing for pop star Sara Bareilles and getting featured on her Instagram has also

been a major highlight in Vance's a cappella career.

A cappella isn't just glamorously performing for North Eastern elites and sold out crowds; the process of picking a song and rehearsing is hard work. Once a group picks a song, somebody, or sometimes a group of people, must arrange the music, meaning they must completely re-conceptualize pre-composed music. This can take anywhere from a day to months, as it can require intense reharmonization and melodic paraphrasing. For a cappella, this can be especially difficult, as it must be fit around voices instead of instruments. Once the song is arranged, members learn it in sections depending on vocal part and voice type, such as alto, soprano, tenor and bass. Eventually, all members come together to sing it as a whole, focusing on musical details and sometimes adding

choreography.

"I have seen the results of hard work and determination," Vance said. Being a part of an a cappella team for so long has helped him learn important skills, such as how to be a more productive and positively contributing member of a group. When people with all different experiences and preferences form a team, it's important that everyone contribute and offer inspiration. When it comes to inspiration and musical role models, Vance says so many artists influence his music, including Amy Winehouse, Antwaun Stanley, Beyonce, Ella Fitzgerald and Nai Palm.

A cappella has impacted Vance's life greatly. "It has introduced me to my best friends and given me some of my funniest, most challenging and most cherished memories." While he doesn't think he'll continue with a cappella after college, Vance

would like to continue doing something musical with his life after he graduates. Even if Vance hadn't auditioned four years ago for his high school a cappella group, he definitely would still be doing something musical.

Two weeks ago, on Feb. 9, Vance and the Washington University Amateurs competed in the 2019 International Championship of Collegiate a Cappella Midwest Quarterfinal, where they placed second. They'll continue to compete in semifinals on March 30 at Washington University, alongside eight other teams including the Washington University Stereotypes.

For Vance, a cappella isn't just an extracurricular activity. It's a life-altering experience that has shaped who he is today. As he continues to grow and try other creative outlets, a cappella will always be something special for him.

## Dancing with the misfits: A conversation with Magic Giant

**JONAH GOLDBERG** 

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

In the opening bars of "Jade," the first song on Magic Giant's debut album, "In the Wind," you can hear birds chirping in the background. This effect is neither intentional nor artificial: "Jade" features birds because the band members found it impossible to remove them from the recording studio or edit out their calls from the rest of the sound. While this may seem like a strange problem to have, it makes much more sense with the context that the recording studio for most of "Jade" was the inside of a redwood

This is the heart of what makes indie-folk band Magic Giant so unique and entertaining. Singer Austin Bisnow, lead guitarist Brian Zaghi (Zang) and multiinstrumentalist Zambricki Li are steadily breaking down every barrier between themselves, their audience and nature. This mission has manifested in arguably crazy ways, from recording live from a chairlift to hosting Camp Misfits, a weekend nature retreat entirely run by the band, full of campfire song sessions and musicaccompanied hikes, now gearing up for its second year.

This Thursday, Feb. 21, Magic Giant will be performing at Off Broadway in St. Louis. In advance of their show, Student Life caught up with Li before the band began their sound check in Detroit.

This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Jonah Goldberg: What's your daily routine on tour?

Zambricki Li: We drive through the night, so, we usually wake up in a new city. Normally, we go find the best local coffee that we can find, and if there's a park, or something where we can get the best of what the city could offer quickly, before sound check, we'll try to find that. Then we have a little recording studio in the back of the bus, so sometimes

we'll work on new music for an hour. Then we have sound check, and then we'll often do an acoustic show between that and the show. We're trying to enjoy as much as we can in the limited time we have, since we're basically in a new city every day.

**JG**: I feel like one of the hallmarks of Magic Giant is the intimate, acoustic shows. Was the degree of audience participation and closeness something you tried to include from the beginning, or did it just evolve naturally?

ZL: We actually had a show that got canceled because of the rain, at a small radio festival. We ended up with, even though it had been canceled, a bunch of people who still came. So, we did a small acoustic show for the people who still showed up. We hadn't played like that before, and it ended up being really great; the songs kind of take on a new meaning when you're face to face with somebody and don't have drums and all the production behind you. It went so well that we started doing it at shows, and because of that we ended up doing an acoustic record.

**JG**: Is there a particular moment that's stood out to you as feeling like, "This is why we make music?"

ZL: Camp Misfits was a big one. You know, we found the land in the Redwoods, and we decided to do it,

but we weren't really sure if people would come. It's easy when it's in your city, but this was four hours from San Francisco, totally removed from the rest of the world. We were kind of wondering, are people going to trust us? And they did. People didn't necessarily know what to expect, but they trusted that we would take care of them. So, really the second day of Camp Misfits, when we were doing a show, and we had people who had come from all over the world, and for many of them it was their first time in California, their first time seeing the Pacific

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## 'Apex Legends' changes the battle royale game

**PHOENIX BURNETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

Writer's Note: In keeping with the culture, I am going to assume your conception of battle royale games are not worth discussing in a public forum. You might ask, "So, what is a battle royale game, wise StudLife writer?" Well, the origin of the genre came from a mod on "Minecraft" called "Survival Games." Much like the movie "The Hunger Games," which is the original mod title, players spawn in the center of the map with a collection of valuable equipment that they can pick up immediately, risking danger, or run away to safety. With the resources found both

in the center and around the map, players kill each other until a single person is left. That survivor becomes the winner. Current convention, like in "Fortnite," has players jump out of a plane, giving them the opportunity to pick where they start, but not guaranteeing that they will have access to the best equipment. Funny enough, both the title and the way players spawn in map are closer to the movie "Battle Royale," the mangaturned-movie that "The Hunger Games" is inspired by.

"Apex Legends" is surprisingly a good game. From February 2018 to February 2019, the gaming industry has been experiencing "Battle Royale"/"Hunger Games" in real life. With the sudden and massive popularity of "Player Unknown's Battleground" (normally called PubG) and "Fortnite" (which made \$2.4 billion in 2018), other companies and game developers tried to corner a portion of the lucrative battle royale market, but, like a random district going against a "Career District," they quickly died. Imagine my surprise, then, when Respawn studios (consisting of the original developers of "Call of Duty") released "Apex Legends," a battle royale game, with no "official" announcement (it was "leaked," but I believe it was intentionally announced that way as an organic marketing tool). Growing at four

times the rate of "Fortnite," "Apex Legends" has the competition terrified ("Fortnite" announced they are giving their season pass, which cost \$10 to access, for free). All context established, let's discuss this potential goliathslayer that I have been unable to get out of mind despite hating the battle royale genre.

Much like the other battle royale titans, "Apex" is built upon a good foundation. Using the same engine and assets from "Titanfall 2" (the most underappreciated game ever made, in my opinion), "Apex" is a well-polished and fast-paced shooter. Despite removing double jump and lateral wall-running, movement is still very agile. Players can run up walls, ride up and down zip lines, slide down hills and bunny-hop—an exploit/mechanic in which you maintain maximum velocity by jumping as soon as you touch the ground. When you include the increased movement speed when putting weapons away and "Legend"specific abilities, the game, at times, feel less like a battle royale, which is usually slowpaced and tactical due to high lethality and no respawns, and more like an action hero power fantasy, which is at the core of "Titanfall 2." This means that skillful plays, on an individual level, will come from creative use of the mobility rather than the ability to build (like in "Fortnite") or the

ability to use difficult to aim guns (PubG). For example, Ninja (the most popular streamer on Twitch), in one of his matches, was chased by an entire squad off a supply ship. While riding down the zip line, he jumped off, turned 180 degrees and rode back up the zip line, catching his enemies by surprise and eliminating them.

Along with its faster pace, the battle royale elements of "Apex" set it apart from the competition. First, the default mode has a maximum of sixty players split into squads of three, which is unusual. Most battle royales either have 100

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## AFAS, EAS bring 'Guangzhou Dream Factory' screening to campus

**ISABELLA NEUBAUER** STAFF WRITER

The Department of African and African-American Studies teamed up with the Department of East Asian Studies to bring documentary filmmaker Erica Marcus and her film "Guangzhou Dream Factory" to campus Friday.

"Guangzhou Dream Factory" tells the story of African immigrants to China who go in search of the jobs and money China's manufacturing industry brings.

"These are the Africans

who believe that China is the new land of opportunity," the narrator says. "They're all here, chasing their 'made in China' dreams."

The film opens with the image of a Ghanaian market, filled to the brim with cheap Chinese merchandise. That merchandise comes from the countless Africans who travel to China, especially Guangzhou. There, they set up or work in factories or in small stores crowded into bustling marketplaces.

As the film progresses, more hazards of this African migration are revealed.

Money and jobs are hard to come by. Con men promise job security but leave hopeful migrants in debt and jobless.

Many of the Guangzhou dreamers are forced to overstay their visas after the Chinese government refuses to renew their visas, and they cannot afford to travel home. The industry promised is, for many, a mirage, trapping opportunity seekers.

The film closes with an unanswered question: "When will the factories, the jobs, the dreams come back to Africa?"

"Guangzhou Dream

Factory," filmed during the summers of 2011-2013, took Marcus into a different part of China than she had ever seen. After the film, she spoke about getting to know the African communities in Guangzhou.

"I think in the film originally, we were just really impressed with the dynamism of the community. Most films that are shown in the U.S., that are about Africa, maybe they will touch on what is seen as the resource curse or the legacy of colonialism... Here was this positive spirit of entrepreneurialism," Marcus

After diving deep into that community, she discovered that not all was as promising as it seemed.

"The footage you shoot tells you what the film is going to be," Marcus said.

For them, that ended up being a much less optimistic view than they had originally

Since the film was made, Marcus brought it to screens across the world. Their first showing was at a pan-African film festival; and afterwards, it has traveled through China, the United States and Africa.

screening, we had people coming up to us saying, 'This is the story of my family; this is the story of my people," Marcus said.

"When we first started

Marcus hopes to take the film to more places and continue making it accessible to more people. One thing she remembers from the first screening that has stayed with the film through the years has been the audience reaction.

"There was incredible excitement from people," Marcus said. "It was really fascinating to see that kind of excitement."

### Inclusivity in Sexuality: Washington University's first [Blank] Monologues

**LEAH HARDGROVE** STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 15 and 16 in Holmes Lounge, Washington University students performed in "[Blank] Monologues," a modified performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." In adapting this show to become more gender inclusive, this year's audience members, regardless of how they identified, were able to more strongly connect with the impactful monologues. Thirty performers spoke 20 different pieces, all centering around sexuality, sexual violence, body image and more.

"I think '[Blank] Monologues' is important because it brings awareness to so many different topics that are often overlooked in dayto-day conversations," sophomore Ava Hansen said. Viewers during the performance were encouraged to be uncomfortable, not unsafe, in order to fully understand the topics presented. It can be difficult to experience such intense subject matters, but the performers blended sensitive materials with the right amount of humor to make the show enjoyable for all. Hansen noted, "within just two hours, '[Blank] Monologues' was able to create an environment where experiences surrounding sexuality, body image and vaginas could be freely discussed without judgement."

This production wasn't just impactful to the audience; the performers felt emboldened, too. As today's society strives for equality, "[Blank]

Monologues" gives a platform for college students to educate their peers and break down taboo surrounding genitalia and sexuality. "I decided to perform because I am really passionate about ending stigmas, especially surrounding women's health issues," shared sophomore Maia Nagle, who performed "My Angry Vagina." Every performer had a different motivation for participating, so working together on such a progressive piece allowed each actor to learn from one another.

What makes "[Blank] Monologues" so meaningful is that it's presented for Washington University students, by Washington University students. When addressing these issues in program orientations and mainstream media, it's easy to feel disconnected from the topic, as they're discussed in a scripted, fictional scenario. However, when the performers are friends speaking as themselves, not as characters, the gravity of the performance resonates more strongly with viewers; there is a strong personal connection with what is being said, this year especially.

were written by seven incredible students:
"My Feminism," by junior Monica Unzueta,
"Wear/Say" and "Not-So-Happy-Fact" by senior Genevieve Leach,
"Sexyb----angrybush," by senior Emily Manin,
"I Want my Body Back," by freshman Sophie

Devincenti, "Claudia"

Eight original pieces

by senior Ariel Kravitz, "The Woman Who Slipped Away," by senior Sanjana Babu and "Why I Didn't Report," by senior Maya Coyle. These pieces especially stood out, as they were the most personal and emotional for the audience. Watching as a friend and classmate of these strong performers, it was rewarding to see all the hard work and dedication pay off.

This performance not only enriches campus life but St. Louis community life as well. This year, proceeds from "[Blank] Monologues" support Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG), a nonprofit that works to build an inclusive community for trans, genderqueer, androgynous, intersex and allies in the St. Louis area. Having a vagina and being a woman are not mutually exclusive, and lessons learned during the performance are important for everyone, no matter their gender identity. Cisgender women are not the only people affected by sexuality stigma. By supporting MTUG and rebranding from "Vagina Monologues" to "[Blank] Monologues," this performance was welcoming to a more diverse group of viewers. This move was deliberate and effective, as more students than ever felt deeply affected by the words spoken.

2019 "[Blank]
Monologues" left a
lasting imprint on how
students interact with
each other in their daily
lives, opening the door to
more inclusive dialogue
about such current, significant issues.

