

Student Life

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EQUITABLE RECRUITING

Q&A with a member of the CDI on how to recruit with an emphasis on equity. (News, pg 1)



STUDENT BUSINESS

Sophomore King Creer grew a pandemic project into a storefront on the South 40 in just two years. (Scene, pg 3)



SPORTS

Men's soccer dominated Greenville in a 4-0 decisive win on Wednesday night to take the victory in their home opener. They're 1-1 on the season. (Sports, pg 7)

Review of WU Expungement Policy Reveals Stricter Standards on Cheating than Sexual Assault



Aerial view photo of Danforth Campus.

COURTESY OF THE SOURCE

ALIANA MEDIRATTA
STAFF WRITER

Since last September, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards has allowed students to submit written appeal requests to remove student conduct violations from their disciplinary records. The policy has left some Washington University students conflicted, both lauding its advancements in restorative justice, but concerned about its stance on sexual assault and other violations.

The Student Conduct Record Expungement Policy began taking shape through conversations between the Student Affairs Advisory Board and administrators.

The policy outlines eligibility requirements for expungement, based on the specific offense committed and whether sufficient time has passed since the violation. For the majority of offenses, students must have acquired 90 academic units and have waited four semesters since their case was closed before submitting an appeal.

Conduct records can be requested by other institutions of enrollment, government agencies, and internal offices at the University.

Students who have violated the University's academic integrity policy are not eligible for expungement, however, the following offenses can be expunged: physical abuse, stalking, domestic violence, hazing, sexual assault and rape.

When a student faces consequences for violating an aspect of the Student Conduct and Community Standards, the Student Conduct Board conducts a hear-

ing, which consists of six members from four categories: faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, and staff or administrators. However, the appeals decisions are the sole responsibility of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Anna Gonzalez, or her designee, usually the Dean of Students Rob Wild, and are not appealable.

After administrators drafted the initial policy in 2019, it was brought to the Advisory Board and later the Student Union (SU) to receive feedback.

Ranen Miao, former president of Student Union (SU), successfully pushed for expunging low-level drug offenses when he was president, but expressed disagreement with the decision to group drug offenses with serious interpersonal violence issues.

"This was a topic that came up in a University Student Affairs Advisory Board meeting as well," Miao said. "I made it pretty clear during that meeting that I was opposed to a stipulation that would [lump drug offenses with interpersonal violence offenses], but I was not involved in the finalization of the policy."

"I think it's really important when we're looking at how we want to reform the Office of Student Conduct to think about how we want our criminal justice system to look like in the real world," Miao said. "We shouldn't use the disciplinary system to permanently tarnish a student's reputation, when we can instead focus on helping them learn from mistakes and grow as people."

Wild explained that the four-semester delay in processing aims to create space between the violation and potential expunge-

ment to provide some degree of repercussion.

"There shouldn't be a violation and then you're immediately able to be expunged," Wild said. "There should be some consequences."

Miao disagreed with this aspect of the policy, noting that if a student committed a violation during their junior year and was hoping to apply to graduate programs that would require their records, they would not be able to appeal it by that time.

"People do not need two years to learn from a singular mistake in their past," Miao said. "I personally do not support having arbitrary restrictions."

While most violations are subject to the four-semester timeline, there are five specific offenses that act as exceptions to this rule: academic integrity offenses can never be expunged and four offenses require a longer waiting period to become eligible.

There was a sense among academic deans that "if you allow [academic integrity offenses] to be expunged you're somehow discrediting the quality of the WashU degree for people who don't have academic integrity violations," Wild said.

Miao said the University isn't treating the root causes of academic integrity violations and is being overly punitive.

"We all agree academic integrity is important," Miao said. "Let's work on helping people learn from mistakes, instead of imposing the harshest possible sanctions possible without focus on restorative justice or growing from their mistakes."

Junior Maurice Wang, a member of the Student Conduct

Board, echoed Miao's sentiments surrounding academic integrity violations during student hearings. In some of the hearings that Wang attended, the rhetoric certain board members used expressed concerns about being too lenient with punishment.

"If we don't punish them, it will make the University's accreditation or standards look worse, so we have to punish them," Wang said as an example of the rhetoric used in the hearings.

A student must wait five years after they graduate to expunge records for four specific offenses: drug violations, endangering the health and safety of another, unwanted sexual contact, and threats or acts of physical abuse.

Miao said that drug violations should be eligible for expungement without being subject to a five year delay in appeal eligibility.

"I find it particularly absurd because those three are linked together with [drug offenses]," Miao said. "It is absurd, in my opinion, to suggest that carrying a few ounces of weed is remotely comparable to sexual harassment, stalking, or assault."

Furthermore, Miao felt that the decision to allow for the expungement of offenses such as sexual assault or stalking while not allowing any appeals to be submitted for academic integrity violations showed poor judgment.

"To say that incidents of sexual misconduct are somehow lighter or more forgivable than academic integrity cases is a reflection of a poor set of moral standards," Miao said.

Wang said that students found

SEE POLICY, PAGE 2

Flood Damage in Lopata House

BELLA DIGENOVA
JUNIOR NEWS EDITOR

Lopata House, a sophomore dorm in the Village, suffered lasting damage in its basement after a summer of record-breaking floods. The laundry room, computer room, and Muslim Prayer Room in Lopata have been closed until further notice.

Senior Sam Kassab, a resident advisor on the second floor of Lopata, has been working to navigate the damage as a resident and RA.

Kassab said that the majority of the damage in the basement can be attributed to "a broken window during the time of a lot of flooding. That's what caused a lot of rainwater to go inside the basement."

Kassab is also a member of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) which has been unable to use their prayer room due to the damage. "I guess that's made us worried," he said.

The MSA has been forced to find a new place on campus to complete their prayers. "Since the prayer room has been damaged, it cannot be used at the moment," Kassab said. "So us in the MSA have had to go to a different place in order to do our prayers."

Holly Delany, Residential Community Director for the Village Community, sent an email informing Lopata and Village House residents that they will share the laundry and computer rooms in Village House until the damage is repaired, estimated to be Aug. 25.

As a result of the broken machines, Kassab said that "residents in Lopata have been having to use resources present in Village House in order to supplement what was once there."

With two residential communities using one facility, Kassab expressed worries that issues might arise.

"There's going to be a lot more traffic in the laundry room, so it might be hard to find laundry machines that are not occupied," he said.

With the inconvenience of transporting laundry and sharing few machines with many students, Delaney stated in her email that "laundry will be free of cost for all residents in Lopata House and Village House until the laundry machines in Lopata House are ready for use again."

Sophomore Lopata resident, **SEE FLOOD, PAGE 2**

New class on reproduction for Fall 2022 Semester

EMMA ROMANOWSKY
STAFF WRITER

Washington University now offers "The Politics of Reproduction," a new course focusing on reproductive issues, for the Fall 2022 Semester.

Students in the interdisciplinary 1.5 credit class meet every Monday or participate through asynchronous course modules to discuss "historical, medical, legal, and sociocultural" topics that pertain to bodily autonomy, social justice, and the reproductive process. Each session is joined by a new guest speaker, including University-affiliated and external experts.

The course was added in the wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, declaring that abortion was not a federally protected right.

Dr. Susan Appleton, Professor of Law and a nationally acclaimed expert in feminist and family law theory, is one of the lecturers for the course. Appleton's lecture "The Legal Landscape — Past, Present, and Future" will explain the broader contexts of family law, both before and after the 2022 Dobbs decision.

According to Appleton, the Dobbs ruling will have implications beyond access to abortion.

"[The consequences of the

Dobbs ruling] could be [restrictions on] sexual liberty, marriage equality, contraception, [and] interracial marriage," Appleton said.

"These concerns are very real, and I think that the other message is to get active in state and local politics because courts are not going to save us," she said.

Junior Zoe Chase is a student in the course who is majoring in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and she said she's eager to hear from the guest experts.

"While I know a lot about reproductive health, I really wanted to learn more from scholars with more nuanced and educated perspectives — to feel more connected to the world around me,"

Chase said.

Senior Charlie Yeldham, a Political Science and Education double-major in the course, said he hopes that "in the light of the Dobbs ruling, everyone takes the time to consider others' perspectives on this issue and develop their political positions accordingly."

"In my opinion, acknowledging the limitations of your personal viewpoint is crucial to having an informed stance," Yeldham said.

There have been two lectures in the course to date, but students are still able to register for the class as the University has extended the add/drop deadline to encour-

age more student registration. While Sept. 8 is the general add/drop deadline, "The Politics of Reproduction" can be dropped up until Nov. 18.

While students are excited for this course, many believe that the University has a broader responsibility to the WashU community and to the broader St. Louis community.

"WashU needs to make a public statement in support of reproductive freedom," Chase said. "To stand by idly and say nothing while half of the student body deals with the consequences of this decision is not an option."

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WED 14
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79/59

EVENT CALENDAR

FRIDAY 9

Battle of the Sands

South 40 Volleyball Courts

The Social Programming Board is sponsoring a 6 v 6 bracket-style volleyball tournament. Teams can be made up of faculty and/or students. Participants can register as a complete team or as a free agent. SPB will be providing food and entertainment during the games to participants and spectators. The sign-up form can be found on SPB’s website as well as their social media accounts.

SATURDAY 10

First-Ever Astronomy Festival

Tower Grove Park

Several members of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences at Washington University are participating in the Astronomy Festival on September 10. The St. Louis Science Center and WURocketry Team will be joined by Astronomy on Tap, who will host a talk by Pamela Gay, “Beautiful Science: Combining the Art of Astrophotography with the Pursuit of Science Data,” at 6:00 pm. The St. Louis Astronomical Society will also provide solar telescope viewing at sunset from 7:00-9:00 pm.

MONDAY 12

St. Louis Symphony

Outside of Bear’s Den

This special collaboration will take place outside on the South 40 (near the Bear’s Den) on the beautiful Danforth Campus. Members of the St. Louis Symphony will follow a string quartet comprised of WUSTL MUSIC students. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public! The Washington University String Quartet performs at 5:30 and the chamber ensemble from the St. Louis Symphony performs at 6.

TUESDAY 13

University-Wide Blood Drive

Umrath Lounge

Sign up to donate blood on September 13, from 9:00am – 7:00pm. The life you save could be a friend, a neighbor, a parent, a sibling, or even your own. Regardless of eligibility, everyone can support the blood drive by encouraging a friend or colleague to donate. Ap- pointments are encouraged.

POLICY from page 1

in violation of sexual as-
sault policy should not be
eligible for expungement
at all.

“If a student committed
sexual assault, they should
absolutely not have it ex-
punged from their record,”
Wang said. “Something
like academic integrity...all
it does is protect WashU’s
bottom line.”

Miao also said it’s im-
portant to think about the
implications of expunging
sexual assault violations
after survivors have already
undertaken the often-in-
tense process of reporting
assault.

“We know that the
existing system is already
skewed against survivors,”
Miao said. “And to take

these cases where we defin-
itively know that someone
is a danger to the commu-
nity and to view that as less
serious than a student who
looks at their notes during
a test, in my opinion, is
absurd and ridiculous.”

FLOOD from page 1

Jason Costello, said that
free laundry does not make
up for the inconveniences
of transporting laundry
and dealing with increased
traffic in the small laundry
room.

“Despite it being free, it’s
still super inconvenient for
everyone living in Lopata
because it takes us so much
longer to do laundry,”
Costello said. “I feel like
WashU hasn’t really been
doing anything else to help
out the students who are
in this situation, and it’s
frustrating.”

In addition to hauling
laundry from one building to
another, students have faced
issues of displaced and lost

laundry.

Costello noted that
“because so many more
people are using a laundry
room that’s not fit for
multiple buildings, a lot of
laundry is getting lost.”

To supplement the losses
and disruption, Lopata
residents have called for the
University to offer more
resources.

“I want to advocate to my
RCD to give the residents
in Lopata, at least for this
semester, free WashU
Wash,” Costello added.

The room in Lopata that
holds much of the Outing
Club and Wilderness
Project’s trip gear was also
affected by the flooding.

“Fortunately most of our
gear is waterproof, so not too
much was damaged,” Outing
Club executive committee
member Caroline Halliday.

“Now the space that we
rely on needs to be repaired
before we can use it to its
full extent again, but we are
making it work,” Halliday
said.

Sophomore Lily Vereen,
a member of the Wilderness
Project, wrote in a statement
to Student Life that “almost
the entire Lopata basement
is being redone; the floors
are stripped, the walls are
being redone.”

Student artwork on the
first floor of Bixby Hall was
also damaged in the floods.



COURTESY OF LILY VEREEN

The gear shack in the basement of Lopata was flooded and much of its shelving was taken out.

Social Media App Turned Student Money-Making Tool

GRACE TYAU
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

A number of Washing-
ton University students
have taken advantage of
an advertisement strat-
egy on the social media
app, Sidechat. The app is a
new moneymaker for both
individuals or organiza-
tions with which they are
involved.

Sidechat’s interface
is similar to the popular
anonymous posting app
YikYak, but includes the
ability to post photos,
and requires that people
sign up using their univer-
sity email addresses. Last
spring, the app began mak-
ing its way through the
campuses of universities
across the country, includ-
ing Harvard, Yale, and the
University of Pennsylv-
ania. Sidechat only recently
appeared at WashU partly
due to paying students to
promote it.

Sophomore Sammy
Fehr is one student who
used Sidechat to make
money.

A self-proclaimed
“worker bee,” Fehr was
enlisted by a friend to
spend three hours handing
out *Insomnia* Cookies and
Sidechat-branded T-shirts
on the South 40 to stu-
dents who downloaded the
app. Fehr and his friend
were compensated through
Venmo for their work, paid
by the hour.

Other students were
hired to put flyers under
dorm doors and on bulle-
tin boards. Sidechat also
ran online promotions,
paying users who made top
posts, or who made an In-
stagram story post shouting
out Sidechat.

Fehr compared the
company’s students-hire-
students strategy to a
pyramid scheme. “I got
money from it, so I’m

not complaining,” he
said. “Anybody could get
money from it. We worked
very hard, though...They
paid well, so I wanted to
get them their money’s
worth.”

However, Fehr himself
never even downloaded
the app. “Is Sidechat worth
it?” Feher asked. “I don’t
know.”

“It’s great for mak-
ing money for students,
because they’re giving a lot
of money away,” he said.
“But as soon as they stop
giving out cookies, who’s
gonna care anymore?”

Izzy Singer, a senior
and captain of the WashU
Women’s Ultimate
(WUWU) team, also
wouldn’t call herself a fan
of Sidechat — she deleted
the app soon after down-
loading it, but utilized its
generous promotions to
fundraise for her team.

Sidechat sent WUWU a
specialized link that, when
used by a student to regis-
ter a new Sidechat account,
would earn the team \$5.
Singer thought, “as long
as the people on the team
downloaded it and their
friends downloaded it, we
[would] just make some
money, which was all we
wanted.”

“We still haven’t got-
ten the Venmo yet which
is slightly concern-
ing,” Singer said. The
Daily Pennsylvanian,
UPenn’s student newspa-
per, reported in its article
“Sidechat flooded cam-
pus with money. Does it
matter?” that payments
from Sidechat can take 3-4
weeks to deliver.

Some students on the
receiving end of the adver-
tising also see faults in the
company.

First-year Elizabeth
Swords said she sees the
logic behind Sidechat
wanting to build their

brand on college campuses
where people of the same
age want to connect, but
that Sidechat’s “aggres-
sive” marketing strategy is
counterproductive.

“By pushing their name
into so many places on
campus, they’re fostering
irritation and annoyance,”
Swords said. “They’re not
advertising their product
to make students want to
get it, they’re making stu-
dents mad.”

Sidechat differs from
similar apps in its approach
to anonymity, as it collects
students’ email addresses
when they sign up.

“[Bullying] can happen
fairly easily when it’s anon-
ymous...but it seems like
people here are just using
Sidechat to be silly and
make jokes,” Singer said.
“[The posts are] probably
somewhat traceable...I do
wonder if people who work
at Sidechat could abuse
that in some way.”

In their privacy pol-
icy, Sidechat states that
they may collect a user’s
email address, school
name, phone number, and
age. “We may use your
information to...prevent,
identify, investigate and
deter fraudulent, harmful,
unauthorized, unethical,
or illegal activity, includ-
ing cyberattacks and
identity theft,” Sidechat’s
privacy policy states.

Student Life reached
out to Sidechat for a
statement about the pol-
icy. Co-founder and
CEO of Sidechat Sebas-
tian Gil responded that
the company is not doing
interviews at this time.

In May, The New York
Times reported that Side-
chat’s founders were
anonymous, but they have
since been revealed.



SCARLETT PATTON | STUDENT LIFE

Flyer for Sidechat app plastered on a residence hall dorm room door.

CORRECTIONS

Last week’s article titled “University announces space equity planning process” said that “Deneb STARS, a cohort program for first-generation and low income students, and the Association of Black Students are two organizations that received access to suites in the Women’s Building last year.” Deneb Stars doesn’t have a suite, they have an office in the Women’s Building, and the Association of Black Students have had a suite in the Women’s Building for over 20 years. The two new organizations that received suites were the Muslim Students Association and the Women and Non-binary Multicultural Association.

SCENE

The path to Repairs Unlimited: the saga of a new student-run business

JENNY RONG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tucked away in the corner of student businesses, underneath the Gregg dorm, sits a newly opened student business with a bright-blue neon sign that reads “Repair Unlimited.” Sophomore King Creer, who’s on the pre-law track, brewed the idea of a tech repair shop in his first few months on WashU’s campus.

The business offers a long list of services and accessory products for phones, airpods, and cables — from simple screen replacement and device inspection to battery swaps. Creer charges anywhere from \$10 to \$250 depending on the generation of the device.

In Creer’s junior year of high school, the pandemic led him to accept a part-time job to work at a device repair shop. “Working for the repair shop didn’t bring in much money, but it was something I enjoyed, and it kept me occupied,” he said.

It was there that he mastered the series of technical skills. Creer first started by observing how a phone is repaired, taken apart, and put back together. Soon after, he was able to take orders from clients and fix the devices himself.

“I was kind of thrown into hot water. Clients would come in, and [I’d] have to [do] it [correctly], right in front of them,” Creer said. The pressure and practice did not go to waste, however. In his senior year, he went freelance, driving to his clients and taking commissions first-hand. The part-time job experience also provided

him with potential vendors for phone replacement parts, which came in handy when he decided to go solo.

The entrepreneur spark in him did not vanish with the end of high school. After King came to WashU, he researched the school’s Student Entrepreneurial Program (StEP), a program funded by the University that helps students become entrepreneurial leaders through supporting their small business development. He reached out to the director Jessica Weldon with his idea, and was soon linked with a graduate student at the University who mentors prospective student storefront owners like Creer.

The pitching process was not an easy one. “I had to prepare a 17-page business proposal plan that included everything from product summary to market research,” Creer explained. “It took an entire semester to put it up. It was me squeezing [...] time [into my schedule] to finalize my business plan.”

All of the work Creer put in led to a final presentation in front of the StEP advisory board, where he had to explain and showcase his business plan in detail. He said the experience was “very intimidating,” but ultimately, his meticulous preparation paid off when he was offered a storefront.

Creer expressed his vision for his business: “Repairing devices is something unique to me, and this was something I wanted to bring to campus,” he said.

While Creer said he is unable to share specific information about business

profits, he plans to invest back into the store in order to expand it. Creer said he wants to first make the store profitable before bringing any partners into the business.

Creer is looking for student workers to join, whether they have experience or not. He said, “Since I started without any experience in the field, I will let [the staff] start off with easier tasks and let them watch repairs.”

During Creer’s interview with Student Life, sophomore Jeoffery Lien walked in and asked about the services that Repair Unlimited provides. Lien is part of Repair Unlimited’s next-door business, Student Technology Services. “We mainly deal with software repair, and it would be really cool if Repair Unlimited can handle the hardware of laptops,” he told Creer, who agreed with him.

“Expanding my business into laptops and iPads is definitely one of the things I want to do. I think it will just take me some more time to learn these [repairing] skills,” he said.

As a student on the pre-law track, Creer has a clear vision of what his future goals are. “I do not plan to do smartphone repairs as a full-time job. My dream is to someday own my own law firm,” he said. Creer sees the StEP program as a place to gain entrepreneurship experiences, where the skills he learns can be applied when he becomes a practicing attorney. Creer said: “For me, this is just a stepping stone toward that path.”



Sophomore King Creer advertises his business at the activities fair on Friday

TIM MELLMAN | STUDENT LIFE

Center for Diversity and Inclusion Speaks to Best Practices for Clubs

VIA POOLOS
MANAGING SCENE EDITOR

With the Activities Fair comes an influx of new club members, and with new members comes the age-old question: how do clubs make sure they are inclusive of everyone who wants to join? And perhaps even more important, how do clubs make sure that all members feel heard and seen? Over email, Dr. Aeryel Williams, the training and education specialist for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, spoke how student groups can achieve these goals.

Student Life: What is the importance of having a diverse student body involved in clubs on campus?

Dr. Aeryel Williams: It is critically important to recognize that diversity is deeper and broader than race and gender. Every organization should seek members that will not only contribute their time and skills, but also their differences in perspectives and lived experiences. This will ensure an enriching and educational experience for each member.

SL: How should club leaders ensure that everyone, regardless of background, feels welcome in a club?

AW: There are three quick and easy ways to make sure folks feel included. One, think before you speak, an age old phrase, but still so true. We have to pause and be intentional

about what we say, how we say it, who we say it to and in what context. Two, ask for ongoing feedback and implement it into the membership experience. And three, practice cultural humility, which means to engage in lifelong self-reflection and self-critique.

SL: When a club is exclusive (makes cuts, requires an application), how can they work to reduce bias in the admittance process?

AW: We all have biases and we cannot ignore them, because they impact our daily thought processes and interactions with others. I would suggest the folks in charge of making the decisions participate in one of the CDI’s Mitigating Implicit Bias and

SEE CLUBS, PAGE 4

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CLUBS

from page 3

Microaggressions workshops. In addition to that, each person should consider and acknowledge their own biases, assess how they may or may not impact the process whether that be positive or negative and discuss them as a group before making any decisions about new members.

SL: How do you recommend a club recruits new members in an equitable way?

AW: Be kind, be open and be fair. Consider ways to increase the recruitment pool and avoid tokenism.

Students should consider the complexities and intersections of identity and in what ways folks need access and opportunities...and then provide that to them.

SL: How can clubs make sure that all voices are heard in decision and policy processes?

AW: Depending on the size of the organization or the amount of folks included in the new member process this might be a daunting task. But as mentioned previously asking for feedback and implementing it is key. The new member

process should be assessed on a regular basis as well as the constitution and bylaws of the organization. Student leaders should focus on creating policies that help members practice inclusion and hold each other accountable when it's time to enforce the policies.

SL: How can a club request CDI training for members? Are there any clubs that cannot request training?

AW: Submit a request using this form: <https://students.wustl.edu/cdi-training-request-form/>



Outing Club leaders convince a new member to join their club while posing in a tent.



Club leaders explain and welcome new members to their organization.



A new member signs up to get involved with the Gephardt Civic and Community Center.



Men's Ultimate Frisbee sets up a vertical competition for potential new members.



Kairos Club Leader reaches out to potential members as they walk by.



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House of Dragons: Gore, Sex, and Family Drama

AVI HOLZMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In May of 2021, I graduated high school. After I graduated, I had nothing to do; the job I had lined up for the summer – working as a sleepaway camp counselor – didn't start for another five weeks. As a way to pass the time, my dad recommended that I try watching Game of Thrones (GoT).

The genesis of my love for science fiction/fantasy started when I was eight years old: my dad read me the entire “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Since then, we have always talked about the latest fantasy movies, books, and TV shows. At family dinners, the two of us forgo the usual “How was your day?” and instead talk about the latest news surrounding the new Star Wars trilogy. So when he, my science fiction confidant, recommended GoT to me, I gave it a try.

By the end of the pilot episode, I was hooked. By the end of episode four, I was addicted and started to read about side characters online. After the first season ended, I sought out podcasts related to GoT and dove right into Season 2. After four weeks, I had finished all eight seasons of GoT. Like most fans, I found the ending (Seasons 7 and 8 in particular) to be a massive letdown.

So when HBO announced a GoT Prequel House of the Dragon (HotD), which premiered on August 21, I was skeptical. The prequel takes place 300 years before the first

season — but how would it avoid the problems that occurred at the end of GoT? What would make HotD a success, when the ending of GoT failed?

Most fans blame the ending of GoT on showrunners David Benioff and D.B Weiss. As GoT became increasingly popular, Weiss and Benioff took control over more aspects of the show. They significantly diminished the role of George R.R. Martin, the author of “A Song of Ice and Fire” (The books that inspired GoT). This time around, HBO included Martin in all major decisions related to the show. A recent New York Times article on the prequel quoted Martin, who said he was optimistic about the

new season. HotD tells the story of House Targaryan, an ancient house of dragonlords, and their downfall.

The show opens with House Targaryan at the height of its power, yet the current king is on the verge of death and has no apparent heir. After putting the matter of royal succession to a vote, the narrator speaks an omen that establishes the plot for the rest of the season. “[The King] knew the cold truth. The only thing that could tear down the House of the Dragon...was itself.” As a superfan, I felt immediately brought back into the Thrones universe.

Political drama is the bread and butter of HotD: in every episode, the matter of succession becomes less and less clear, and the viewer has no idea who will ultimately sit on the Iron Throne. The newly chosen King Viserys is an example of how

compelling the characters in HotD are. As the king, he is the most powerful person in the world, but it is unclear if he ever

wanted to be king. He isn't power-hungry or motivated by glory; Viserys just wants to maintain the peace in the realm.

Taking a classic fantasy character archetype and giving them non-traditional motivations and desires helps to draw the viewer into the show. Every time Viserys is on screen, I have no idea what will happen next. It feels like standing at the top of a very tall diving board. When it comes time to jump off the board, I have no idea if the show will belly flop or land perfectly with barely a splash. The twists make HotD a volatile TV show to watch — the unpredictability is captivating when the show is firing on all cylinders, but the plot can feel awkward when it isn't.

The first three episodes of HotD are superb. The Targaryan family drama takes center stage. In the show's premiere, we witness brothers betraying brothers, husbands sacrificing their wives (R.I.P. Aemma), and daughters trying to be the son their fathers always wanted. Three episodes in, I am totally invested. If one nerdy superfan's opinion isn't convincing, I think the numbers also speak for themselves. According to Forbes, roughly 20 million people watched episodes one and two. By that metric, showrunners Miguel Sapohnnik and Ryan Condal successfully re-created the magic that attracted tens of millions to GoT.

If you have never watched GoT or any fantasy TV show, then HotD has something for you too. Nestled in all of the blood, gore, and sex that HotD (and GoT) became infamous for is a script rife with lines that can read as life

lessons or funky Instagram captions. In one episode, King Viserys concedes: “I am forever doomed to anger one person in the pleasing of another.” A broader audience can connect to the feeling of not being able to make everyone happy. Martin, Condal, and Sapohnnik want HotD to appeal to the largest audience possible.

I have enjoyed the show even more because its broader messages about life mean I can watch it with friends who are not obsessive superfans like myself. Strip away all the dragons, castles, and medieval decor, and HotD would be a TV show about a dysfunctional family. By doing this, the show becomes something

new audiences who may not be as familiar with (or interested in) fantasy can enjoy.

Right now, I do not have five weeks until the start of my next job. Sometimes, it feels like I barely have five minutes to do anything. Yet, I still need that escape. I want to experience something that has nothing to do with being a college student. So, every Sunday at 8 p.m., I sit down in front of my TV, surrounded by friends. Together, we are all transported out of St. Louis and into the land of Westeros. Once the episode ends, I pick up the phone and talk to my dad. We both love the new show.



ILLUSTRATION BY TUESDAY HADDEN | HEAD OF ILLUSTRATION

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WordWheel

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.
Previous solution: SHEEPISH
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Stories often used for storage
7 Painter or sculptor
13 Impulse-conducting cell
14 Elton John's "___ in the Wind"
15 "The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas" writer
17 "Fool Us" judges & Teller
18 Gp. for good drivers?
19 Fossey subjects
21 Superfun times
23 "Folk instrument named for the Greek god of nature
27 Easy pace
28 Gun, as an engine
30 Debtor's note
31 Pro bono TV ad
32 Soft leather
34 Join the club
37 "Buffing tool for some jewelry-makers
40 Prus maker
41 Nourishes
44 Campaign funding org.
47 Cal. neighbor
48 DOD intel arm
50 "All ___ Well": Taylor Swift song
51 "___ This American Life" host
54 Punctuation in an email address
56 Actress Campbell
57 Industrial-sized tub
59 Random ___ of kindness
60 Dismissive response when offered chai in the ends of the answers to the starred clues?
65 Debated
66 "I'm not ___ it": "You've yet to convince me"
67 Does some traditional winemaking
68 Job durations

DOWN

1 "And Still I Rise" poet Maya
2 Fake ID user, maybe
3 Changes direction
4 NYC subway line
5 ___ flower: foul-smelling rare plant
6 Like a bug in a rug
7 Best pitcher in a team's rotation
8 Peer leaders in a dorm, for short
9 Explosive letters
10 Perfect
11 Mention the surprise party to the birthday girl, say
12 Core convictions
16 Big name in caulk and sealant
17 Kid-friendly sandwiches, for short
20 ___ urchin
22 Green Day drummer
24 Guy in the sky
25 Gaming rookie
26 Whole, milkwise

By Ella Dershowitz 9/8/22

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

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, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution to last week's puzzle:

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

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LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLVED:

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

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29 Presidential rejections
33 Eye on a stick figure
35 Pecan pie morsel
36 Jeans name
38 Actress Sedgwick
39 Far from forthcoming
42 Soldiers' IDs
43 Male deliveries
44 Brooch holder
45 Play grounds?

46 Frolic
49 Watched from the sidelines
52 Very beginning
53 "Law & Order" spinoff, familiarly
55 Chemise fabric
58 Emer. alerts
61 Ornamental flower
62 "You betcha"
63 LP successors
64 "Here's an update," briefly

FORUM

OPINION SUBMISSION

A call for unity

NATHANIEL HOPE
WU COLLEGE
REPUBLICANS PRESIDENT

Dear Campus Community,

Since 2013, the Washington University College Republicans have planted American flags to honor the 2,977 men and women who perished in the 9/11 attacks. However, we recognize that these acts of terror impacted every American and immigrant with ties to this land. For this reason, the onus is on every member of our campus community to join us in remembering all 2,977 of these victims.

As a community, we must not forget to honor those who died in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia on 9/11, and others who succumbed to injuries afterward. We must remember Americans like 11-year-old Bernard Brown, who was on the plane that plunged into the Pentagon.

We must remember the immigrants from over 90 nations, who spent their final moments stuffed in broken elevators and packed stairwells. And how could we ever forget the brave souls who rushed into the Twin Towers as victims rushed out, laying down their lives to save men and women they did not even know? Peers, professors, and support staff: we have an obligation to unite to remember and honor these victims.

However, we recognize that some may worry that unity is impossible in these divisive times. We must also remember that the United States was united on 9/11. A contentious election rattled the American people in 2000, but those terrible attacks mended the divide. People from every corner of the country flocked to Lower Manhattan to assist with New York's recovery effort, and Democrats and Republicans prayed for our nation to heal. Even villagers from Iran, whose country was and is an adversary of

the United States, held a candlelight vigil for the 2,977. As such, there is no reason we cannot set aside partisan differences and mourn a tragedy we all share.

Let us gather Saturday on Mudd Field at 7:14 a.m., CST

which is when those terrible acts of terror began on 9/11. After a moment of silence for every victim, we will plant a flag for every one. Then, on Sunday, September 11, the memorial will remind our community to remember

these individuals. We will begin retiring the memorial on Monday at 6:00 p.m. Courtesy of generous members of our community, we will provide volunteers with food and drink.

We look forward to

joining you in remembering all who died because of those awful attacks on September 11, 2001. As Sunday will mark a solemn day for our entire community, we must mourn for and remember 9/11 victims together.



American flags line Mudd Field for a 9/11 commemoration in 2014.

HOLDEN HINDES | STUDENT LIFE

STAFF EDITORIAL

WashU’s COVID accommodations are failing students

It’s no secret that restrictions around COVID-19 have drastically changed in the last few months. The most recent CDC guidelines recommend that a person exposed to COVID-19 wear a high-quality mask for ten days instead of quarantining and reduce a previous 10-day isolation period for those who test positive to just five.

More pertinent, however, is the general sentiment — made possible by the proliferation of vaccines — that the pandemic is “socially over,” meaning most aren’t consciously distancing themselves and taking precautions the way we were in 2020.

This leaves Washington University in an awkward place. COVID-19 has certainly not disappeared — the New York Times

reported an average of 614 cases per day in St. Louis in the last two weeks. At the same time, students are tired of all the red tape, and more importantly, with the new freshman classes steadily increasing in size, the University is seemingly out of spare housing.

This leads us to the University’s new COVID-19 policy, which in many ways, is not much of a policy at all. Students who test positive are required to stay in their rooms and not come to campus, but isolation housing is not provided. Students who are COVID-positive are also expected to wear a mask, but not while sleeping. This includes those who live in doubles, with roommates sleeping in beds mere meters away.

There is no more food delivery, free testing, or

transparent reporting of COVID-19 cases within the community. The policy essentially mirrors CDC guidelines, which aren’t created with college campuses in mind.

For a freshman in their first weeks of class, this means that a positive test requires them to text brand-new friends for food delivery three times a day, attempt to contact a classmate in each class for the day’s notes (the University is hardly encouraging online participation), and be responsible for exposing a roommate (who they have just met) to the virus for eight hours every night.

These obstacles don’t create much incentive to test if symptoms appear. If the University is treating COVID-19 like a cold or the flu, why shouldn’t a student do the same?

The University’s fall plan to manage COVID-19 states that “a limited number” of housing units have been set aside for students who meet very specific criteria. According to a list provided to Residential Advisors, the University has named students with “chronic lung disease, cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, heart failure, diabetes, pregnancy, cancer, [an] organ transplant,” or those who are “actively taking immunosuppressive medications,” as among the few who can request to be moved. Students who are

not on this list but do not feel comfortable rooming with someone who tests positive will eventually be able to appeal to be moved, but it’s unclear when this process will be implemented or how strictly additional accommodations will be made.

Upperclassmen, especially those who live off-campus, are better able to accommodate the current COVID-19 policy. With access to a kitchen, a room of one’s own, and a more established social network, these students are likely to be less inconvenienced by a positive test (with the exception of those who are at-risk).

Yet for underclassmen, most of whom are far from home, the University should look to peer institutions to find a comfortable middle ground. Georgetown, for example, says that it delivers meals and other essentials to students isolating on campus. The University of Southern California (USC) offers housing accommodations to “students who are unable to isolate within their home.” Emory University also provides meal pick-up for students on a meal plan who have tested positive, as well as contacts for students who aren’t on a plan but need assistance.

We understand that WashU, like other universities, is in a difficult spot with limited housing and uncertainty on what the

future may hold. However, if the University refuses to make accommodations, the onus falls on students to make them — and it shouldn’t. In the past two academic years, WashU has been able to find non-dorm quarantine housing in the Knight Center and unused fraternity houses. We urge them to consider reinstating this practice, especially for students who share a bedroom.

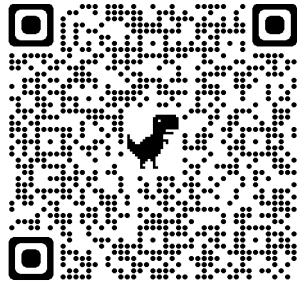
Additionally, continuing to provide free tests and some form of meal delivery would increase incentive to test for COVID-19 if symptoms appear. For students who are on-campus, meal delivery assistance could come in many forms: a voucher for a meal delivery service that could take away the stress of acquiring one meal of the day, a place where sick students could pickup GrubHub orders away from the typical dining-hall rush, or even a platform where students can post their room and GrubHub meal number for peers to grab and drop off.

Furthermore, transparency is key. If the University is tracking cases internally, as they state on the Danforth Campus Plan, then students, faculty, and staff should also be privy to that information. Some public benchmark for the current severity of COVID-19 on-campus is vital in order for students to modify their behavior accordingly, even if using the number of

confirmed cases as a metric is flawed.

In the absence of support from the University, we call on the student body to support one another. Upperclassmen, think back to your freshman year. During your first week, if you been required to stay in your room for five days, would you have had a community that you would have felt comfortable calling on to bring you food, water, medication and other necessities? Even if you did, most of us know someone who didn’t. For first years, sophomores, juniors and seniors alike: check in on the people on your floor, on that one person who is out of class because of COVID-19, on that friend who is on day four of isolation, and see if they need anything. If nearly three years of the coronavirus (and its variants) have taught us anything, it’s that when the going gets tough, we have to turn to each other (masked, maybe).

Student Life’s Forum section is looking for faculty column writers! Please scan the QR code below so that we can get in touch with you.



TUESDAY HADDEN | HEAD OF ILLUSTRATION

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SPORTS

Newcomers and familiar faces: Women’s soccer puts up solid showing in win vs. Greenville, draw vs. Trinity and Fontbonne

IAN HEFT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With rain pouring down on Francis Olympic Field, Jess Greven was willing to put it all on the line.

The junior midfielder squeezed out her ponytail and took a shot on goal, a missile to the goalie in the bottom half. The pace of the game picked up, with two shots on goal in two minutes. Water sprayed from the turf with each bounce.

Ultimately, No. 11 WashU finished in a 0-0 draw against No. 16 Trinity (Texas) on Sunday, with the Bears unable to get the ball in the back of the net. Still, after a resounding 2-0 victory versus Greenville on Thursday and a 1-1 tie against Fontbonne University, WashU remains undefeated.

With the return of long-time Coach Jim Conlon, these matches provided an opportunity for a largely unproven WashU squad to build chemistry and sort out rotations before conference play begins next month. Contributions from first-year players will be integral to this team’s success, as the scorers of half of last year’s goals have graduated.

Conlon was impressed by the poise and composure of his team this Saturday. “I’m happy with the shutout,”

he said in a WashU Sports Network postgame interview. “If we can shut a team out like that — of that quality in some goofy weather conditions — we’ll take it early in the season.”

Sophomore Gaelen Clayton led the defensive line for the Bears against Trinity, playing all 90 minutes, while junior midfielder Anna Viscovich clocked in 85, including a scoring opportunity that was deflected by a Trinity defender in the 24th minute. Senior forward Maggie Brett and junior defender Kate Flynn also contributed after coming off the match versus Greenville, where both women scored their first career goals.

Coach Conlon raved about Brett and Flynn after the draw. “Kate and [Maggie] are just effortless up and down that outside back, and [they] do a great job for us.”

Brett, who is returning from her third ACL injury, has been integral to WashU thus far. When asked about her goal on Thursday, Brett noted that “My teammates were more happy than me...t was a cool feeling to see everyone supporting me in that.”

The weekend’s matches also provided ample opportunity for new first-year recruits to play and get a feel for soccer on the collegiate level.



EMMETT CAMPBELL | STUDENT LIFE
Goooooal: Maggie Brett scores the first goal of the season, fighting back from three ACL tears to return for her senior season. “I think my teammates were more happy than me — it was the best feeling... seeing everyone supporting me in that,” she said.

Freshman midfielder Kaci Karl led the team in minutes off the bench, while freshman Marilee Karinshak led WashU’s attack. After a competitive training camp where the freshman class was whittled from 17 recruits to seven roster spots, Karinshak was excited to get on the field for the first time this weekend.

“I’ve been looking forward to this for so many years,”

Karinshak said. “Seeing the jerseys and being able to put them on was a really overwhelming feeling — and it just feels awesome.” With a lack of forwards, Karinshak and Brett were the two starting forwards in a team heavy on centerbacks.

Other members of the team have noticed the instant impact from the first-year class. “We have great freshmen

— obviously Marilee and Kacy getting great minutes — [but also] a ton of others,” Brett said.

While the skies opened up around the 67th minute of Saturday’s match, WashU seemed to gain momentum in the second half and ultimately led Trinity in shots, shots on goal, and corners, even as they were unable to come out with the win.

WashU’s tie against Fontbonne on Sunday means that they are 1-0-2 after their opening weekend. The coaching staff will continue to tinker with lineups and rotations in order to find the best 11. “We’re gonna look at a lot of combinations early in the season to figure out who the best players are that work well together,” Conlon said.

Sports Update: Quick hits from the Bears’ opening weekend



JAMIE NICHOLSON | STUDENT LIFE
Rise and shine: cross country completed their first meet in Forest Park in the early morning hours of the day, looping around Art Hill.

WashU wasted no time in dominating their first meet of the season, scoring a perfect 15 points against local team Greenville in Forest Park.

The women’s team had an average time of 15:33 for the 4.17k two loops around the lake path. Freshman Jillian Heth led, with junior Marlee Fradkin following eight seconds behind. It was a positive

day for the underclassmen as well: they made up seven out of the top ten runners.

The men’s team was similarly successful, with freshman Oliver Witt leading the way for the Bears. Junior Jack Maranz and senior Joe Silagi completed the top three.

Still, the Bears’ top competitors weren’t on the course, including juniors Cullen

Capuano and Will Houser. The first opportunity to likely see the top WashU runners on a NCAA regulation-length 8k and 6k courses will be at the Gill Dodd Invite, where both the men and women will face off against a larger field. The meet will be the season opener for many of WashU’s more experienced cross country athletes.



CLARA RICHARDS | STUDENT LIFE
Owen Culver has been an integral part of the Bears’ offense with three goals in two games. He’s also been credited with two assists in 83 mintues played.

In the seventy-eighth minute, with the Bears up 4-0, Greenville’s Jaime Torres charged towards the goal. He made a desperate kick.

Fifth-year goalkeeper Matt Martin had it covered.

Thirteen seconds later, Torres made a second attempt.

Martin had that covered too.

It wasn’t just him in the goal. The entire defensive line

was behind him in the goal as backup defenders, blocking shots that peppered the goal.

“It means everything,” said Martin. “It shows that our team’s there to watch everyone’s back. We’re in it for the team.”

After losing their first matchup 2-1 in a hard-fought game, WashU men’s soccer found redemption in a 4-0 win against Greenville in the

team’s home opener.

Goals from Ethan Semelsberger, Ryan An, Joseph Hipskind, and Owen Culver in the first half gave the Bears their first win of the season.

The Bears’ defensive line also played a clean game. Semelsberger played ninety minutes, and Rabee Haidari and Reece Nicholson played major time on the back line for the Bears.

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SCENE

Q&A: B-Wild showcases new student performers

IZZY SILVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Student Life sat down with some of the performers from B-Wild to hear about their love of music.

Kam Reo

Student Life: Tell me about yourself as a musician and what you think of the WashU music scene?

Kam Reo: I have been playing guitar ever since I was five. My parents really did not push me to play music at all; neither of them are musical people. I was only focused on guitar for a while and I wasn't into writing songs that much.



ZOE OPPENHEIMER | STUDENT LIFE
Students support their musical peers during the B-Wild concert.

During COVID I started to write music and make more of an effort to come up with songs. During freshman year at WashU, I spent a lot of time experimenting and recording, this past year I actually took the year off and made an EP, it was a blast. During freshman year it was hard to meet people just because the year was dominated by COVID but I met one of my best friends, Ben Worthen, and he is one of my main music collaborators.

SL: What has your experience been performing?

KR: When I first came to WashU the first time

I remember playing for people who were impressed. I remember one person telling me how it was 'sick' that I played guitar. I hadn't really experienced someone complimenting me like that since I was a little kid.

SL: How have you evolved as a musician?

KR: When you are a little kid I feel like you can do anything on stage and people will cheer for you. When I started performing I was nervous about playing in front of others. I didn't enjoy engaging with people. Now I feel 1000 times more comfortable playing on stage. So much of that growth came last year, the experiences I had playing shows and messing up helped me learn and grow.

SL: What is your writing process like, and how do you make music?

KR: My creative process has changed a lot, yet some of its core elements have stayed the same. I have always had such a guitar-focused background and so much of my interest is centered around the guitar. I usually start by just playing the guitar and then I will think of a tune for a song. I do not just come up with songs in my head. Once I learned music theory on the piano, and



ZOE OPPENHEIMER | STUDENT LIFE

Student smiles while playing music alongside fellow bandmates.

how to form cords it became a lot easier to write songs and come up with new music. Recently I have been trying to write songs for piano and hang out with more vocalists as well. I want to try and be a little more melodic, right now I am just spending a lot of time thinking about new ideas for songs.

Braxton Hart

Student Life: Tell me a little bit about yourself, how did you get into music?

Braxton Hart: I started playing trombone in my middle school band. My dad and grandpa were both really into jazz, so that is why I started to play and continue to do so.

SL: Did you play Trombone here last year? What did you do with the Trombone last year?

BH: I was involved in the Jazz combos here. We had rehearsals once a week and it felt kind of formal to me, like a class. But I met this guy Daniel through the program, he is from St. Louis, so he helped me find places to play across the city. At least once a week we would go into the city and play somewhere.

SL: And this year, are you veering into the big band scene? Is that your goal?

BH: I don't know about a goal for the year. I would say I just want to get as immersed as possible in the

St. Louis music scene the way I felt so connected to the Memphis music scene. I also want to play with my friends on campus. In high school, I mostly played with adults so now I really want to play with friends and explore the intersection of friendships and my music.

SL: Describe the experience of forming a band for you -- what has that been like?

BH: I had a really good time personally. Getting the rehearsals and stuff together was a blast and I love talking about music with them. In comparison to class, getting to pick the music that you want to play was cool, like building a setlist.

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