

NEWS

Suspended student protesters speak out

ISAAC SEILER
ALIZA LUBITZ
STAFF WRITER
NEWS EDITOR

Several WashU students who were suspended after the April pro-Palestine campus protests interviewed with Student Life to recount their experiences with Washington University's disciplinary process, discuss their grievances with the administration, and provide updates on their enrollment status.

Twenty-six students were suspended for their involvement in the April campus protests: three for their participation in the April 13 Bear Day demonstration and 23 for their actions at the April 27 protest and encampment.

Senior Andrew de las Alas, who was suspended for his role at the April 27 protest, said the disciplinary process and communication from the University was "disorganized" and "disorienting."

Another student suspended on April 27, who requested anonymity for privacy reasons and will be referred to as Student A, expressed frustration with the University's handling of the protest and suspensions. "I have so much built-up resentment against the school. I just don't know where to place it," they said.

Most of the suspended students who have not yet graduated, including Student A, had their conduct cases resolved over the summer, returned to campus this fall, and are now on probation.

However, R.J. Lucas, one of three students suspended after the April 13 protest, said that all Bear Day protesters have been barred from returning to campus for the Fall 2024 semester.

Lucas added that it took him and the other students over three months to receive a final decision on whether their suspensions would be extended into the following school year.

"At the end of July is when I and the two other students arrested and suspended [on April 13] decided to send a joint email to the University being like, 'Where's our response? It's been way too long — the [suspension] decision is important for us to plan out our future careers,'" Lucas said.

Lucas has one semester left until graduation, but has since decided that he will not return to WashU.



ILLUSTRATION BY JAIME HEBEL

"My decision to transfer out is firm on the basis that WashU, for me, was not a good environment," Lucas said. "The culture of repression by the University really made it a very unsafe space for me, both physically and psychologically."

Lucas described an incident with the Washington University Police Department (WUPD) that particularly bothered him.

"A student reached out to me saying that they were profiled," he said. "Someone who kind of looks like me — really they're just brown and have curly hair like me. But they were profiled and asked by WUPD if they were me because [the officers] thought I was on campus and had breached the rules of my suspension."

Student Life contacted the student, senior Lorenzo Prila. Prila described the interaction he had with WUPD, during which officers mistakenly asked if he was "R.J. Lewis."

"I'm walking on campus. Six police officers tail me, surround me, and ask if I'm 'R.J. Lewis,'" Prila said. "Luckily,

I'm not. They ask for ID, and I have to give both my driver's [license] and student ID...still not R.J. Lewis, evidently, so they let me go."

In response to Prila's statement, Julie Flory, Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications, told Student Life that WUPD officers are dedicated to treating all WashU community members with respect.

"[They] would never want anyone to feel like they're being profiled in any way," Flory wrote in an email to Student Life. "Any case of mistaken identity, while unfortunate, would certainly have been unintentional."

Lucas said that his decision to transfer schools was solidified upon learning of Prila's interaction with the police.

"I think the incident, for me, confirmed that there was over-policing [on campus]," Lucas said.

Four students who were suspended because of their arrests on April 27 spoke to Student Life about their experiences with the University administration.

One of the students, who

requested anonymity for privacy reasons and who will be referred to as Student B, said that her suspension led to her experiencing significant emotional distress, ostracization from campus communities, and strains in relationships with certain family members.

"I feel like [the University] put us through hell," she said.

All of the students who were suspended for their participation in the April 27 protest received their letters of temporary suspension from Dean of Students Rob Wild on April 28.

Student A shared a copy of their suspension letter with Student Life, in which Wild wrote that Student A was "temporarily suspended" from WashU.

"Your continued presence on campus poses a substantial threat to the ability of faculty and other students to continue their normal University functions and activities," Wild wrote.

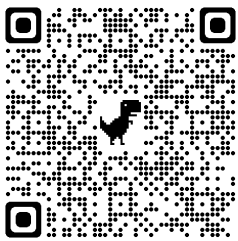
Wild's letter also described the terms of the Student A's suspension, which included that they were prohibited from being on any WashU-leased or WashU-owned property and barred from participating in University activities.

Wild said he met with every student suspended after April 27 soon after the suspension letters were sent out.

"Usually, when a student is arrested for anything, the University will initiate something called a temporary suspension," Wild said. "A temporary suspension is a claim by the University that a student's conduct has been harmful enough that the University needs to suspend their activity from being on campus."

The WashU Student Conduct Code at the time required the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) to notify students of charges "within a reasonable time" after the temporary suspensions were imposed. Notably, the Student Conduct Code was revised in July 2024, but no significant changes were made to the section pertaining to temporary suspensions.

Read the rest online!



Uncle Joe's stops 24/7 service



GABRIELLA CULLEN | STUDENT LIFE

Peer counseling center Uncle Joe's has reduced their hours because of University mandate.

SOPHIE SCHWARTZ
LEAH WASSERSTEIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

With the start of the new semester, Uncle Joe's Peer Counseling & Resource Center announced that they will no longer be providing 24-hour services, a change that was mandated by the Washington University administration. Their new hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. by phone and from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in person at their office on the South 40 in Gregg House.

Maya Dieterle and Rachna Vipparla are seniors and co-directors of Uncle Joe's, an organization that provides peer counseling services to WashU students. They said that the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Support and Well-Being, Kirk Dougher, cited preventing counselor burnout and ensuring student safety as the primary reasons that mandated the change.

Dougher stated that the administration's goal was to optimize the care that counselors can provide to students during peak hours, reducing fatigue and helping counselors to maintain a healthy commitment to their Uncle Joe's responsibilities.

"The hours were changed in response to continued escalation in the stress and pressure [that Joes] have been talking about over the last few years," Dougher said. "I'm always worried about our Joes, and I want to do whatever I can to be able to protect them."

Dougher said that the administration had been in communication with former Uncle Joe's leadership about the job's potential impact on

student counselors. However, the current Uncle Joe's counselors were not involved in discussions about this decision.

"Many members were really upset to hear the news when it was shared with them, and it honestly came as a surprise to both [co-directors] as well," Vipparla said.

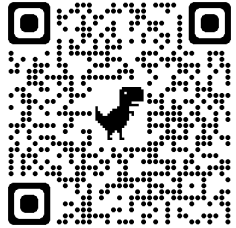
Dieterle and Vipparla said that they never felt complete drain from their Uncle Joe's phone duties, which consist of two to three 48-hour shifts per semester.

"I can only speak for myself, but I've definitely felt tired — sometimes you get a call in the middle of the night, and it can be just exhausting," Dieterle said. "But I've never felt burnt out."

Both co-directors said that there is a very supportive culture within Uncle Joe's counselors. "We really want [Joes] to put themselves first," Dieterle said.

The other reason for the restricted hours was that the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services is not open 24/7, so Uncle Joe's would be unable to connect students to them in the case of a crisis where a professional is needed. Without additional support networks to fall back on in the case of an emergency between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., the peer counselor and student would be placed under lots of stress.

Read the rest online!



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CONDUCT CODE

Effective July 1, 2024



SCENE

Save Me, SCENE!

Nicole Backal | Contributing Writer

Dear Scene,

I don't know what to do with the WashU social scene. I am under 21 and hate spending a ridiculous amount of money on Ubers, alcohol, and stupid Pyramid tickets. I don't really want to get involved with Greek Life, but I still want something that is more focused on a social scene and don't know how to make this happen. I feel like at other schools, there are still places/events that people under 21 can go to and have fun.

Frustrated First-Year

Dear Frustrated First-Year,

Have you considered transferring? I hear that Florida has lovely weather this time of year!

In all seriousness, WashU can feel like a loop of sitting and studying in BD, especially in your first couple of weeks. As a sophomore, I remember feeling like that, and sometimes I still do. Finding a social scene here requires more effort and some out-of-the-box thinking. I'll admit that WashU doesn't have the "typical" college social scene — you won't get massive tailgates like at UMich, or RedBull-sponsored frat parties. Many WashU students have felt like this at some point because St. Louis isn't a college town, nor does it have a vibrant sports culture or big Greek Life presence. Still, there are plenty of options.

Don't despair! Honestly, the best thing you can do is join high-intensity clubs. Groups like rowing, run club, dance team, or StudLife (shameless plug) require more commitment, but they in turn create a more social environment. Clubs that are more time-consuming tend to have a larger social scene because you end up spending so much time together. They're also a great place to make friends because they typically have bonding events and other organized activities that are fun — and can be significantly cheaper than going out. I

highly recommend trying out different clubs without the pressure to commit, and joining whichever one you like. I remember being scared to join clubs after the first couple weeks because I felt like I was too late, but you can usually join most clubs at any time in the semester.

As someone who isn't in Greek Life, I promise that you don't have to join a sorority or fraternity to have fun. Frat parties start a little later in the semester and, in my humble opinion, get old quickly. You can still casually participate in some of their events, but joining a club might have a similar effect to joining Greek Life when it comes to social opportunities and making friends fast. You can also start the rush process and drop if you are not interested; there is no harm in trying. Most people at WashU are not involved in Greek Life, so don't worry about it.

Transportation can be a barrier when you live on campus, but if you have a valid U.S. license, you should sign up for Enterprise CarShare through WashU. That deal allows you to rent a car for an hourly rate of five dollars. You can go to places like TopGolf (Tuesdays are half off) or Chicken N Pickle with a group of friends. If you like theater, the Fabulous Fox sometimes offers student discounts if you sign up. On most event sites, you can find comedy shows, concerts, and performances in St. Louis. You can also attend different

club events (the Film Club just organized a film festival on campus) and follow the Social Programming Board (@WASHUSPB on Instagram) to learn about campus events.

Getting stuck in the WashU bubble and neglecting the opportunities that St. Louis does offer is easy. Many students, particularly students living in WashU housing, do not know what to do in town. Check out the botanical gardens, the zoo, the Tower Grove Farmers Market, and the art museum. Go to a Cardinals game, a Blues game, or a St. Louis CITY SC game. Watch out for food, music, or any festival coming to town. If you just want to get out of your routine, organize a picnic on Art Hill, explore random stores on the Loop, or watch a movie (Hi-Point theater is excellent for film bros). These activities might not include drinking, but they are just as fun.

So many first-years face the same problem you do. Believe me, you are not alone. Both WashU and St. Louis have a lot to offer if you just look around. Talking about this to your friends or strangers is the perfect way to bond and have someone to try new things with. We can't wait to see you in (extracurricular) clubs and around town!

Your club leaders & future teammates, Scene

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Shira Billet
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VOLUME 146, NO. 4

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Up and Atom!

Investigating the roles of nurture and nature in psychopathology

ELIZA STULMAN
STAFF WRITER

As Bill Nye the Science Guy once said, “Science is a part of everyone’s everyday life.” Here at WashU, science may be slightly more present than Bill Nye could conceive of. “Up and Atom” aims to break it down for you — from lab sciences to social sciences and beyond.

Dean’s Distinguished Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Ryan Bogdan, has earned the spot as the first spotlighted lab director. Bogdan has a Ph.D. in Clinical Science and currently directs the Behavioral Researching and Imaging Neurogenetics Lab (BRAINLab). He has been at WashU for 12 years and currently teaches Inside the Disordered Brain: Biological Bases of the Major Mental Disorders.

Bogdan discovered his passion for research on accident. He grew up in the rural Redwoods of Northern California and was originally a musician, studying at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. However, while attending Berklee, Bogdan broke his arm, terminating his music career.

After receiving the news of his injury, Bogdan transferred to Santa Clara University in California. During this time, the Human Genome Project, an international project that aimed to identify and map all the genes of the human genome, was starting to gain traction. While he doesn’t think there was “one defining moment” that indicated to him that he wanted to have a career in science, this project, along with the growing popularity of neuroimaging, played a key role

in sparking Bogdan’s interest in the neuroscience of mental illness.

“In taking the coursework, I became fascinated in the subject matter, and it was working in a research lab that really led me to see the utility and practicality of all that I could do in a lab,” Bogdan said.

Using a variety of different tools and methodologies, including twin studies, Dr. Bogdan’s BRAINLab researches how biological factors and environmental experiences influence phenotypes that could dictate psychopathology presence. Biological factors may include brain structure, brain function, inflammatory markers, and genetic background, while environmental experiences may include childhood maltreatment, prenatal exposure to substances, and more.



ILLUSTRATION BY MANUEL LOPEZ

Per Bogdan’s WashU website profile, he and his team study “genomic and environmental factors associated with psychopathology risk (e.g., depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, ADHD, schizophrenia) and their biological correlates (e.g., structural brain metrics, inflammation).”

“We need to better understand the causes and mechanisms that lead to [psychopathology],” Bogdan said. “By taking it one step at a time in a more univariate fashion, eventually we’ll be able to start to build these multivariate models.”

Given his upbringing in

an area known for cannabis cultivation, Bogdan is particularly interested in the role of prenatal substance use in psychopathology. In fact, he has published multiple papers about addiction, like “The Genetically Informed Neurobiology of Addiction (GINA) Model” and “Associations Between Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Childhood Outcomes: Results from the ABCD study.” Bogdan hopes to share his knowledge of substance disorders with curious students in a potential new course about the neuroscience of addiction.

For students interested in pursuing scientific endeavors, Bogdan emphasized

the importance of research experience and the value of remaining with the same lab for more than just a few months. Working at a lab for a longer period of time will enable students to involve themselves in the science field’s “grunt work” and expose themselves to “all levels of science.”

“Once you know you want to pursue a career in science, it is important to read the literature obsessively about what you’re working on and try to learn as much as you can... develop methodological expertise...and approach with a humbleness and being okay with not knowing things.”

“Once you know you want to pursue a career in science, it is important to read the literature obsessively about what you’re working on and try to learn as much as you can...develop methodological expertise...and approach with a humbleness and being okay with not knowing things.”

I survived a cappella auditions, barely

OSCAR WALDMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s Sept. 4, I’ve just signed up for three a cappella tryouts. As my heart pounds, I think about the fact that I won’t even have a beat to guide me during auditions. Just me and my voice.

To be clear, I’m not trying out as an experiment. Genuinely, I’ve had the urge to try out for a cappella every single year at WashU. My first year I went so far as to book an audition... only to not show up. My little first-year nerves were freaking out, and I tossed my “Pitch Perfect” fantasies behind me.

I love singing, but the military-like schedules of my aca-friends terrify me. Practice until 12 a.m., why? And yet, here I am, my senior year wondering what could have been. But enough of that. This time, I’m asking, “What could be?”

My first tryout, Sept. 5, is for the Pikers.

As I sat on floor two of the DUC, my nerves were multiplying. I got to my audition a bit early like an over-eager kid does, filled out a form with funny questions for the Pikers, then got called in.

The audition started with some vocal warm-ups on piano to place my voice. Then, I read some music (pretty badly, shout-out to my fifth-grade piano teacher) and sang my solo.

I performed two verses of Sinatra’s “My Way.” I think I did the beginning part okay but butchered the part where Sinatra yells, “I DID IT MYYYYY WAYYY.” To be fair, my voice is hoarse right now, probably from a sickness some random first-year brought from the remote depths of east

Montana.

Then the Pikers asked me some funny questions that I genuinely enjoyed answering, such as, “Do you think you could beat this member of the Pikers in a fight?”

Some of that dynamic back-and-forth honestly made me want a call-back. Seems like a fun group! Settle down, Oscar, I reminded myself, You’ve been crushed by too many WashU improv auditions to know not to get your hopes up.

Next up were The Amateurs.

The Amateurs are a group that traditionally place high at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (think of the a cappella competition from Pitch Perfect). Aca-scary! I get to Lien Library, adjacent to the clocktower, and I literally cannot swipe into the building. It’s on the South 40. I’ve never felt more like an older dweeb.

After I wait for someone to open the door, I see a girl get called into the audition room. She starts to sing, and her voice sounds angelic. I’m officially batting out of my voice’s league. I see a bowl of cough drops on the waiting table for the auditionees, unwrap two like the senior caveman I am, and toss them in my mouth. After the angel-voiced student leaves, an Amateur walks out to take my audition sheet.

There was a spot on the audition sheet that said, “Do you have any fun questions you’d like to ask us?” A reminder that I’m not just selling my voice, but my personality. While racing against time, I put down “Superpower?”

While I’m sucking on the lozenges in the waiting room, I hear them discuss my question. “Is he asking

if I have a superpower?”

The Amateurs finally call me in. Before I begin the piano vocal scale warm-ups, one of the Amateurs asks if she could say something.

She says, “Superpower? I hardly know her.” It’s an awkward attempt to break the ice, so I laugh.

Then they ask, “So, what about you? Superpower?”

I try to think of a clever response. I say, “I had sex with them.” I tried to make a callback to the joke she just made, but it didn’t land. Not my proudest moment. I felt like the audition was now over before it started.

I sang my Sinatra, and left with a cringed, awkward smile on my face. In the words of Drake after he also suffered public embarrassment against Kendrick, “I’ll see ya later, yeah. Maybe when you meet your maker.”

Fri, Sept. 6, I auditioned for Reverb.

Reverb played my favorite hype song, “10/10” by Rex Orange County, as I walked in (which they knew from, you guessed it, a little questionnaire sheet I had to fill out in a waiting area). The vibes are warm and open, which makes sense for a community service-focused aca-group.

But something changed in me as I left the Shepley library for my audition. I realized how much I want this.

After Reverb was Staam.

I wasn’t originally signed up to audition for Staam, but now that the aca-magic had a grip on me, I wanted to give it a shot. I saw a friend in Staam at lunch. They pounced on my intrigue and signed me up.

Have I fallen into some aca-trap? Why do I want to get in so badly? Is it just because I want to be accepted into something?

Do I want to just prove that I can? Or maybe it’s because the rabbi who did my Bar Mitzvah was a founding member of Staam...my mom said I should text him about this. My mind is racing.

Ten minutes after the Reverb audition, I walk to the Mudd Multipurpose Room for Staam. I chat with a friend as I fill in the audition form in the waiting area, and the vibes are fun and friendly. I get called into the audition room and see the group of which I know half the members. Some sort of odd confidence has sparked in me. Maybe it’s the high from the Reverb audition? The Staam friendly faces who want to see me do well?

They individually introduce themselves, which none of the other groups have done. I sing my two little stanzas of Sinatra’s “My Way,” and ultimately, think

I did alright.

Now, writing this at 11:21 p.m. on Friday, I wait. Apparently callbacks are sent out tomorrow at 9 a.m., and callback auditions can begin at 12 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7, I wake up and see I got a callback for Staam. But honestly, I’m not sure if I want to make the aca-commitment. It’s about three practices a week for a total of seven hours. And the callbacks email from the aca-organizing committee says, “This preference card is a binding agreement and is unchangeable once submitted. If you choose to pref this group and they offer you a membership, you MUST accept. If you are unsure, or would prefer not to join this group, do NOT pref them.”

So at this point, I’m conflicted on what to do. Apparently I have to know by Sunday? I haven’t even gotten in yet, but I don’t

love the pressure. Maybe it’s my commitment issues, but how am I supposed to be sure if I’ve never been to a practice?

Sunday is my call-back audition. I didn’t drink alcohol last night at a friend’s birthday party because of my callback today. I also bought honey throat spray at the Loop CVS at 10 p.m. because I found online that menthol cough drops dry your throat. It’s almost comical how much I care at this point. It’s like I can taste the thrill of getting in. Yet my callback is in four hours, and I still don’t know what I’m singing.

Read the rest online!





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ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID WANG

FORUM

Sabrina Carpenter is just not that good

LYN WILKINS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether you love or hate her, there is no escaping Sabrina Carpenter. Every radio station, retail store, and dentist office bombards us with her music. This is not inherently a bad thing; pop is a respectable genre and palatable to many audiences. My issue with Sabrina Carpenter is not her chosen genre nor her melodies. They are catchy and everything pop songs should be.

My issue lies in the lyrics. First off, why are some people pretending she is a good lyricist? I tried my best to give her a chance, but with lyrics like “you used a fork once” and “I know I Mountain Dew it

for ya,” I can’t get behind it. I don’t deny that there are many clever puns and innuendos, but that is all there is. She uses the shock value of sexual lyrics and the admiration of her puns to cover up absolute absurdity.

I know lyrics don’t define good music. There can be incredible production or impressive vocals, but her music sticks to the same production style in a typical vocal range. I simply do not think her music has enough technical excellence for me to look past the lyrics. However, I can recognize that she is a modern pop legend with a large following. There are many artists whose music I don’t necessarily enjoy, but who I admire all the same. I hoped

that Sabrina Carpenter could fall into this category, but the more I learn of her the less this is the case.

As a person, I do not know her nor her morals. What I do know is that she wrote a song in response to “Driver’s License” by Olivia Rodrigo. “Driver’s License” is about a boy who left Olivia for an older blond girl who made her insecure. Rather than respect the insecurities of a 17-year-old girl, Sabrina Carpenter responded with “Skin.” This song includes lyrics such as “You can try / To get under my, under my, under my skin / While he’s on mine” and “Don’t drive yourself insane,” not only clearly referencing Rodrigo’s song but also taunting her. Rather than taking

the high road, Carpenter adds fuel to the fire in “Skin,” which I frankly find ridiculous considering she was the adult in the situation.

Then again, I don’t really care about celebrity drama; this could’ve all been PR. I’m not Olivia Rodrigo, and I have no right to be offended on her behalf.

I am, however, a woman, and as a woman, I wouldn’t regard Sabrina Carpenter as the face of modern feminism. She owns her sexuality which is, in some ways, very impressive, but women are not just our sexualities. Sexual expression is not a political statement, but rather a basic human right. I don’t think she should be seen as a revolutionary for

being sexual. In this case, she is owning her sexuality in response to a young insecure girl by referencing the sexual encounters she is having with the young girl’s ex. On one hand she liberates herself from purity culture, but on the other she puts down other women because of her sexual encounters.

I just find it unwise to turn her into some sort of feminist icon when she has time and time again proven herself to not be a girl’s girl. Look at “Please, Please, Please” and “Taste” where she insults the former partner of the love interest in the song. She directly states the guy’s ex isn’t enticing him like she is; not to mention “Taste” is literally a letter of insult to the

love interest’s old partner. It’s catchy but degrades the other woman involved. She makes catchy music, but would any of it pass the Bechdel Test? Can she ever mention a partner’s ex without some sort of jab?

I’m just saying, she doesn’t seem to be super pro-women despite her attempt at covering “Good Luck, Babe.” She is not a feminist legend for owning her sexuality. Beyond that, her music is one-dimensional and the literal embodiment of the phrase “thirsty on main.” Her lyrics are witty, but wit can only do so much. I tried to get behind the Sabrina Carpenter hype, but I’ve found far more things worthy of criticism than admiration.

CAPTION CONTEST

Caption this! Enter this week’s contest



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID WANG

Scan the QR code to enter your submission by 11:59 p.m. on Monday.



9/18 WINNERS



ILLUSTRATION BY SYDNEY TRAN

First place
Contemplating dropping out in my secret bathroom on campus.
Mason Sutton,
Current WashU Student

Second place
You the 4th time you've considered dropping premed this week.
Mason Sutton,
Current WashU Student

Third place
The second round of coffee was not the play.
Sean Henry,
Current WashU Student

PUZZLE
Mania



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WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.
Previous solution: DEFERRAL
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Fiona Apple Bottom Jeans

Crossword by Alex Nickel

ACROSS

1 Kendrick headlining the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show

6 Beyoncé's "If ____ A Boy"

7 Titular Tyler Perry character

8 It can be big or small in poker

9 Break the ice?

DOWN

1 An arm and a leg?

2 "Take ____ on the wild side" (Lou Reed lyric)

3 Film and ____ Studies (ArtSci major)

4 Ain't

5 Apt surname for a novelist or librarian

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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

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

9/19/24

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1	2	3	4	5
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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Omnibus resolution is not the solution

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, Student Union (SU) Senate voted to approve an omnibus resolution which called to, among other things, disarm the WashU police department (WUPD), create an Indigenous Studies Department, lift suspensions that followed the April 27 protests, and remove Andrew Martin from his post as chancellor. The resolution, which was vetoed two days later by SU president Hussein Amuri, highlights the disconnect between the needs of the student body and the actions of their elected representatives.

Unlike SU Treasury, which wields tangible power through its control of student funds, the Senate is a largely symbolic entity that serves primarily to platform student concerns and bridge the gap between students and University administrators. An SU Senate resolution is only as powerful as its ability to communicate student concerns

and influence actual change. The ideal resolution should be focused, respond to a present concern of the student body, and express an interest in and a plan for working with the relevant party to find a solution. Tuesday's resolution failed to meet this standard.

When a resolution contains an overwhelming number of tenuously-connected demands, it dilutes the effectiveness of each line item and confuses what students should prioritize. By grouping ideas, each is presented as important but not important enough to be its own resolution. Combining disparate ideas in a single resolution creates an all-or-nothing situation in which senators have to vote at once on multiple issues. For example, the proposal to create an Indigenous Studies department, a plausible and well-supported plan, was undermined by its association with more controversial proposals, like demands to disarm

WUPD and for the chancellor to resign.

This does a disservice to the students who support the proposal, including Indigenous students, who the University already fails to prioritize. Senators who agreed with adding the department but opposed other items may have felt compelled to vote against an initiative that aligned with their interests and the interests of the students they represent.

SU Senate should prioritize issues that unite the student body, not marry the controversial with the popular; combining them makes it harder to achieve the popular initiatives and renders the entire resolution more difficult to pass.

The SU Senate is intended to represent all students. It has a responsibility to platform concerns that are felt widely and which directly affect

many. We are concerned that the resolution prioritizes proposals that appear disproportionately aimed at airing grievances rather than affecting tangible change.

Unlike the U.S. Senate, SU Senate's power extends only so far as the University is willing to listen and engage with their ideas. When Chancellor Martin attended his first-ever Student Union joint session on Tuesday, he signaled a desire to work with student government. SU Senate's call for his resignation, which came only a couple hours later, is counterproductive and communicates an unwillingness to collaborate. A resolution which actively antagonizes administrators is unlikely to be considered on its merits and content.

The SU Senate should prioritize specific, attain-

able goals that directly impact and resonate with the student body and embrace its role as a unifying force on campus. This does not preclude ambitious or radical ideas; SU should continue to aim high, but efforts to make change also demand strategic focus. Further, Student Union can and should be critical of University administration, but critique and collaboration are not mutually exclusive.

When deployed effectively, resolutions can shed light on critical issues and bridge the gap between students and administrators. But when complicated issues are bundled together and bridges are burned, the Senate's efforts become diluted and ineffective.

Staff editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of our editorial board members. The editorial board operates independently of our newsroom and includes members of the senior staff.

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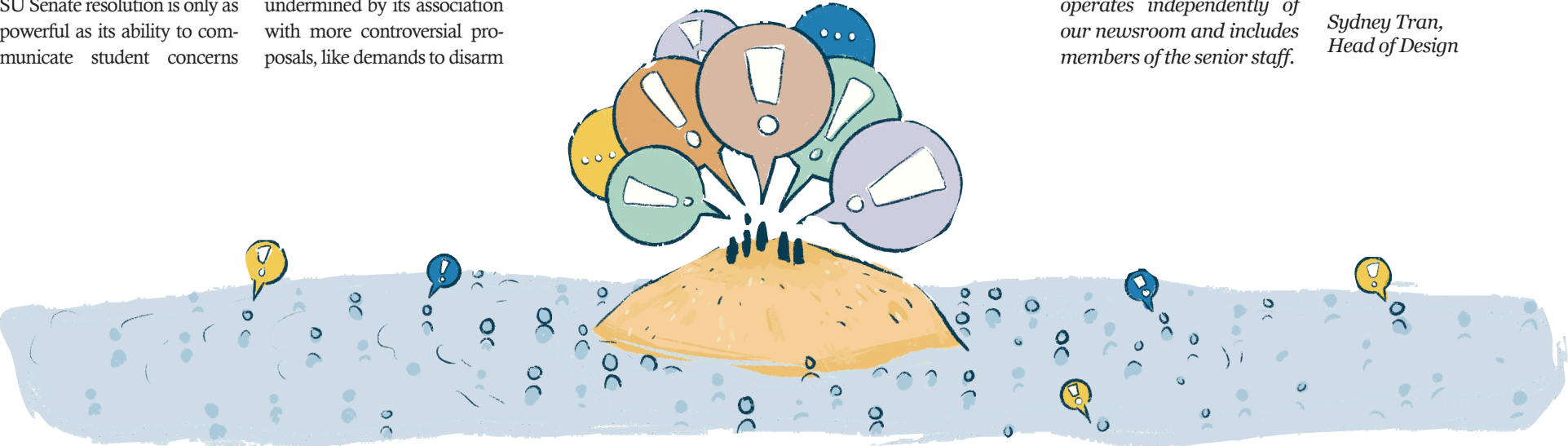


ILLUSTRATION BY JAIME HEBEL

OPINION SUBMISSION

Students don't need faculty to inform their political convictions

HILLARY ANGER ELFENBEIN
PROFESSOR IN THE OLIN SCHOOL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

While teaching my summer course on negotiations, two particular comments stood out in the course evaluations. First, there was some good advice on dog training, and thank you to the student who wrote that. (I promise you, this topic came up during a break.) Second, another student wrote “Loved that you didn’t talk politics. I agree it’s not something necessary for the classroom. I really respect your decision!” Thanks to them as well. Given that the negotiations course includes topics such as power dynamics, compromise, and managing conflict, students often ask about my views on political negotiations.

When this happens — as it has dozens of times during my

22 years teaching at WashU and UC Berkeley — I always do a time-out. I tell students it isn’t appropriate for me to discuss my own political beliefs in class, and that having a Ph.D. from a psychology department does not put my political opinions above theirs. Faculty members’ academic credentials don’t make us experts on everything. Academic freedom for faculty is for us to speak freely from our professional expertise, not to instruct students about anything that crosses our minds. That part is our freedom of speech outside of work. Further, my goal is to teach students how to think, not what to think: to share facts and frameworks for analyzing these facts. I do not share my own opinion about what side students should take in their personal politics, because that is not my place.

This view was shaped by policy at UC Berkeley, where I began my career: “The

unequal institutional power inherent in [the faculty-student] relationship heightens the vulnerability of the student and the potential for coercion.” Only in a relationship of equals is there the possibility of a true exchange about personal politics without pressure or negative consequences. (Berkeley connected this policy to why faculty-student romantic relationships are banned, to ensure free consent among equals.) I regret that many of my colleagues do not follow this approach—if professors need to spoon-feed you values or validate your convictions, then as a university we are doing something wrong.

Faculty members are always on the job when interacting with you, which raises the issue of free consent among equals. It concerns me when colleagues discuss personal politics with you as students in any forum, whether private conversations, class discussions, public signed statements with their university affiliation, or in-person events. When faculty were arrested during the campus protest in April (regardless of whether they were treated fairly afterwards), I wondered why they were there to begin with, crashing a student event. Some might argue that campus protests are open to the public and that faculty are free to attend them. However, I believe this perspective overlooks the power differential noted by UC Berkeley, which states that students are vulnerable to coercion. When faculty are engaging in political activity with you, they can be

constraining your freedom of speech. You need us for many things, but something you don’t need us for is holding a protest.

As GenXers, my classmates and I marched against South African Apartheid and the Gulf War without faculty members there. They did their own thing and left us to do ours. There can be good intentions for faculty to attend student events, perhaps the belief they are to support and protect you so that you don’t have to be courageous alone. However, the fact is that you aren’t alone: you are adults who have each other.

I believe that faculty attendance at student protests is an extension of my generation’s attitude toward young adults more generally, which is to emphasize the ‘young’ part rather than the ‘adult.’ Many of you came of age being tracked with your phones while your parents managed your social life. Even today, many of your parents contact the university tirelessly, trying to solve your problems. Although it is well-meaning, at some point help is not helpful. Instead, we need to trust and respect you enough to let you lead. Just as your parents need to let go, we faculty likewise need to leave you to your own political activism. You deserve better than us reliving the glory of our college days and feeling validated through you, this time getting to be authority figures.

There are concepts in psychology called “halo” and “pitchfork” effects that illustrate why it can be problematic

for faculty to discuss their personal politics with students. That is, when you like or dislike one thing about a person it tends to spill over into liking or disliking other things about them too. Biases like this are so strong that experimental instructions to de-bias often bounce back and make it worse. Faculty fall prey to halo and pitchfork biases just like anyone else. Although they do not deliberately engage students on political topics to surveil you and tally who agrees or disagrees, as humans we cannot control thinking more highly of those who agree with our views, whether political or not. Even if faculty attend protests to support you, they also notice who is there. This favors some students and disfavors others.

You may not mind faculty speaking with you about politics if you agree with them. However, in the long run you could find yourself on either side of this equation. Perhaps you agree with their views on one topic but not another, or you disagree with a different professor. At an extreme, you would have to keep a roster of professors’ personal views on a range of political issues to select courses. You are adults who can think for yourselves, but you still need tangible things from us like grades, internships, and recommendation letters. These should not be put at risk from unintentional bias if you disagree with professors’ personal views.

Sadly, a second problem when faculty discuss politics with students relates to the culture wars that have put

higher education under attack. When professors offer their political opinions in class, this offers talking points on a silver platter to politicians like J. D. Vance who call universities centers of indoctrination and advocates to defund us. I do not believe that describes universities accurately, and we need to be consistent in making clear it does not.

Where this leaves you, ideally, is as young adults who set boundaries with older adults. I urge you to push back when faculty members engage you in their personal politics in any format, event, or type of discussion. You can thank them for supporting you but say that you’ve got this. You can tell them that displaying their political views might make other students uncomfortable. You can tell them that you look forward to having conversations about politics after you graduate. You can say that, whether or not you agree with their politics, you would rather focus time with them on architecture, English, sociology, or biochemistry. I urge you to push back especially as an ally when you agree with the professor. With all due respect to my colleagues, halos and pitchforks can make it risky to speak up when political views diverge from those of faculty. Pushing back when you agree is not only allyship but enlightened self-interest for the long run. Unfortunately, if faculty don’t hold back as you develop and act on your own political convictions, then part of leading for your generation will require you to shrug off interference from us.

Student Life

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Washington University Student Media, Inc., publishers of *Student Life* newspaper, will hold its Fall Board Meeting on Friday, September 27, 2024.

The Board of Directors will take questions and/or answer concerns from the public during the open session of the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

If you would like more information about this open session, please send an email request to: BoardMeeting@StudLife.com no later than Thursday, September 26, at noon.

Please put the words "Board Meeting" in the subject line and your contact information in the email.

SPORTS

WashU golf inspires hope for season to come at two events

GEORGE WINDELS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The No. 10 Washington University women's golf team played at the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio at Elks Run Golf Course on Sept. 9 and 10. WashU then traveled to the Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) Fall Classic in Normal, Illinois at Ironwood Golf Club, where they defeated 18 other schools to win the stroke play tournament on Sept. 14 and 15. After missing the 2024 NCAA tournament in the spring, the team looks to establish a new reputation: one of a focused, motivated group whose talent can overcome any obstacle.

The UAA tournament is a match play format, consisting of the four UAA universities that have women's golf teams: WashU, No. 1 Carnegie Mellon University, No. 2 Emory University, and No. 17 New York University (NYU).

Monday's matches featured WashU against Emory and NYU against Carnegie Mellon. The two winners of these matches would then face off on Tuesday to decide the winner of the tournament

and the two losers would play for third place. Although WashU lost the Monday match to Emory 4-1, their sole win came from junior Tiffany Chan. Chan showed her resiliency by coming back from an astounding four down in the match to win in a playoff on the 19th hole. On day two, the Bears bested NYU with a 3-2 win, with senior All-American Sydney Kuo, sophomore Amy Beanblossom, and first-year Mabrie McMahan all winning their matches.

The Bears (581 total strokes) took home gold at the IWU Fall Classic, as they finished on top with a massive 12 stroke lead over second place IWU. Chan, finishing in first place in the tournament for her first collegiate win, was WashU's top performer with a remarkable two-day total of 142 strokes.

"On individual performance, I reminded myself to take it one stroke at a time on the course, tried to not get ahead of myself and to only focus on my own game," Chan said. "I felt like this was a big factor that impacted my performance over the weekend, and my putting game was also great which was definitely a contributor to the low scores."

Other standout performers in Illinois included Beanblossom (t-2nd), first-year Nicole McGuire (7th), Kuo (t-10th), and sophomore Reagan Robinson (t-14th), out of a 124-player field.

The team was "pretty pumped about Tiff winning solo," according to Robinson. "The energy's really good. [We are] super excited and motivated after not going to the NCAA last year. [We have been] putting a lot more time into the short game so we can win more tournaments," she added.

This victory gives WashU momentum as they head into the Montgomery Country Club Women's Intercollegiate in Montgomery, Alabama on Sept. 22 and 23. Head coach Dave Reinhardt, who has held the role since 2021, is optimistic about the team's future, as the Bears have added lots of promising young talent in the past couple recruiting classes. Because of the team's absence from the 2024 NCAA Championship, Reinhardt described this year as a "refresh year," in which the Bears will look to get back to the success of the 2023 season where they finished national runner-up.

The team is "definitely a

top 5-10 team in the country," Reinhardt said. "If we play to our potential we can finish first or second in every tournament. We feature a group of 10 looking to push each other to be better in our fall and spring tournaments this year."

Though the national championships aren't until the spring, the fall season gives the Bears a chance to test themselves ahead of the spring season. WashU will look to Kuo, the former 2nd place finisher at the NCAA Championship.

A leader in the clubhouse, Kuo expressed her high expectations for the season to come, saying that her "personal goal is to try and have the team make it to nationals, but also to compete well and finish in the top five at the NCAA tournament. It's just a matter of seeing how things go, but putting in the work, time, and effort, and you have to trust the fruits of your labor will show."

According to Coach Reinhardt, Kuo is a "phenomenal player" who "drives the bus of our program."

Team success will not come, however, without the help of WashU's highly touted young core headlined by Beanblossom



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHU ATHLETICS
Junior Tiffany Chan beat a field of over 100 golfers to win the IWU Fall Classic on Sept. 14 and 15.

(2023-24 WGCA Central Region Team), Robinson, McMahan, and McGuire, who Reinhardt described as "gritty" and "determined."

Top-to-bottom leadership on the parts of players like Kuo and Robinson have helped build the exceptional group chemistry, which the team exhibits.

Robinson said that she is "pumped for the season. Everyone got better...All our captains are really good at keeping the energy up during morning lift or early tee

times."

A few weeks into the fall season, the Bears are laying the framework for a spring season that will have lots of potential for team and individual success.

"Our team is in a really good spot this semester. We're all hungry to redeem ourselves after last year having not been at nationals," Kuo said. "We're going to show up this year and compete against the best teams and show that we deserve to be here."

Men's soccer trounces Webster and Principia

RISHI CHINIGA
CHRISTIAN KIM
STAFF WRITER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the last 15 years of men's soccer matches between Washington University and Webster University, the Bears boast an impressive 11-0-1 record against the Gorloks, outscoring them 31 goals to five. The Gorloks have failed to beat WashU in men's soccer since Oct. 16, 2002. On the night of Saturday, Sept. 14, the Bears continued their longstanding series of victories against Webster, putting together a comprehensive performance to win 7-2.

Three days later, on Sept. 17, the Bears continued their dominance with a 5-0 win over Principia College. Coming off a 5-0 victory against Greenville University on Sept. 11, the Bears' wins continued to build goalscoring momentum with two games remaining before University Athletic Association (UAA) play begins.

Against Webster, the first half showcased WashU's aggressive attack under new head coach Andrew Bordelon, with plenty of possession, progressive passing, and pressure high up the pitch. After only six minutes, senior midfielder Eugene Heger, who displayed his distribution and playmaking abilities throughout the night, opened the scoring. Webster equalized nine

minutes later, but the Bears then roared back with two powerful, well-placed shots from junior forward Zach Susee and sophomore midfielder Colin Link to give WashU the 3-1 advantage. However, WashU's dominance was slightly spoiled by another Webster goal from a low-driven free kick just before halftime.

After 45 minutes of being on the front foot, with the Bears notching 15 shots to the Gorloks' five, the 3-2 scoreline was closer than the Bears and Susee would have wanted.

"We outplayed them in the first half pretty substantially. We just gave them two kind of crap goals, to be honest...we felt like we should have been on five-nil at halftime, and, you know, it was a one-goal game," Susee said after the match.

However, the second half did not start off the way the Bears wanted. Webster displayed relentless pressure, getting off two shots

in the span of five minutes. However, this was the bulk of Webster's second-half activity as WashU increased pressure down the stretch.

"I'm glad we were able to keep our heads up, come out, and bury them in the second half," Susee said. "I think it's something we can really hang our heads on from this game."

This continued pressure led to the first goal of the half as sophomore Ethan Wirtschafter found the net. It was only a matter of time before the Bears would find the net again. WashU used the final five minutes to not only score one insurance goals, but three of them.



MARCO ZHANG | STUDENT LIFE
Junior Tyler Allred dribbles past a defender in a match against Webster University on Sept. 14.

No. 1 women's soccer defeats DePauw, Rhodes, and Illinois Wesleyan

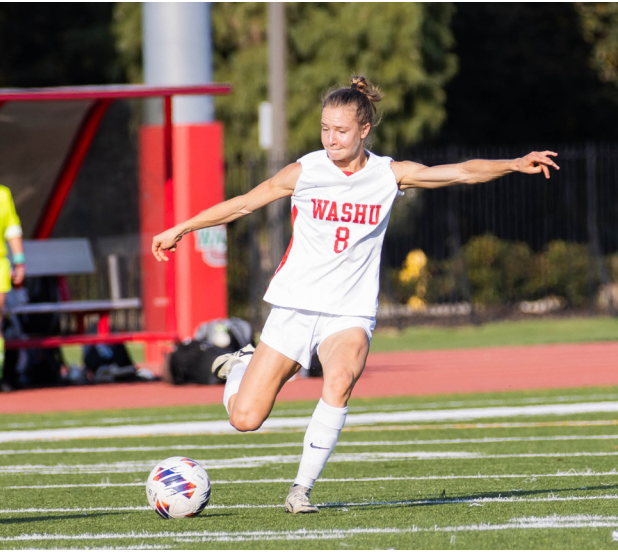
LEWIS RAND
JUNIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Off of their first away win of the season against Westminster College, the No. 1 Washington University women's soccer team faced a new challenge over the weekend as they took on DePauw University and Rhodes College in Greencastle, Indiana on Sept. 13 and 14. WashU passed the test with flying colors. Within the first three minutes of their match against DePauw, WashU was up 2-0 with goals from senior Meryl McKenna and junior Kaci Karl. From there, the Bears never looked back, shutting out both opponents 4-0 and 3-0 respectively.

"Going on the road is always hard, we've got a great home environment, and so you just got to try and keep a mental consistency in your preparation when you go on the road," head coach Jim Conlon said. "I thought we did a good job of growing into the week. Maybe that first road trip [at Westminster College] was a little awkward, and then growing into the next two on the road, but to come out with three quality results was good."

On Tuesday Sept. 17, the Bears moved to 7-0 on the season, defeating Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) 4-0. WashU dominated the game, outshooting the Titans 22-0.

First-year Olivia Clemons,



ANNA CALVO | STUDENT LIFE
Sophomore Regan Cannon passes the ball in a game against Illinois Wesleyan University on Sept. 17.

who has been a standout for the Bears offensively and was named University Athletic Association (UAA) Athlete of the Week for a second week in a row, scored three goals across the weekend. She scored the final goal against DePauw and the first two goals against Rhodes, one in the first half and one in the second.

The Bears offensive charge also saw new faces adding to WashU's scoring list this season with Karl notching her first two goals of the season, one against DePauw and one to put the Bears up 2-0 against Rhodes early in the second half. Her goal against DePauw came on a set piece, which has been a strength for the Bears and allowed players like Karl, who plays in center midfield, to score goals.

"I was in a higher position than I usually am at the top of the 18-[yard box] and while the forwards created all the chaos, the ball just popped out, and I was just conveniently there, and I was able to put it in the back of the net," she said.

Graduate student goalkeeper Sidney Conner and sophomore Charlotte Shapiro, who missed her 2023 season due to injury, shared time in goal this weekend to help ensure a clean sheet as the Bears

move to 5-0 on the season. Senior defender Emma Riley McGahan also contributed to the Bears' shutout, playing 125 minutes across the weekend.

"[She] was fantastic for us in all three shutouts [this week]. We asked her to do a lot of different things defensively," Conlon said. "So I thought our senior, Emma Riley McGahan, really put in some really good shifts for us to not only get wins but show her teammates the standard of excellence."

The Bears continued their winning form against IWU at Francis Field on Sept. 17. The Bears opened the scoring just two minutes into the game with McKenna's third goal of the season. Center back Ally Hackett doubled their lead 12 minutes later on a corner kick from senior Gaelen Clayton, and first-year Cami Colpitts and junior Ella Koleno rounded out the scoring in a dominant victory.



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Q&A: Athletic Director Anthony Azama and UAA Commissioner Sarah Otey discuss landscape of college sports and plans for upcoming year

RILEY HERRON
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

Washington University Athletic Director Anthony Azama and University Athletic Association (UAA) Commissioner Sarah Otey sat down for an interview with Student Life on Thursday, Sept. 12. The interview came as administrators from all eight UAA schools wrapped up their annual meetings, hosted by WashU. Azama and Otey, who was appointed as the UAA's second-ever commissioner in May, discussed topics like conference realignment; the impact of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) on Division III athletes; WashU's plans for the land purchased from Fontbonne University; and what excites them about the UAA and WashU athletics for the 2024-25 school year.

This conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Student Life (SL): Commissioner Otey, you just wrapped up meetings with the athletic directors from the different UAA schools. What are your plans for your first year in the job and long-term for the UAA?

Sarah Otey (SO): I consider [at least my first six

months to be] my listening tour. I am taking over from a commissioner who's been in the role for 37 years. He is a giant in Division III. So there's no need for me to come in and make any massive changes. I think that there's some modernization potential for the UAA brand — our external communications on our website, social media platforms — and that can begin in the immediate. The last thing that I think is relatively short-term: [The UAA comprises some of the] largest and most influential schools in the academic space, and I don't know that we're carrying that over into NCAA governance, so elevating the influence and profile of the UAA schools within the NCAA landscape is important to me.

SL: Mr. Azama, what are your priorities and goals for WashU athletics this year?

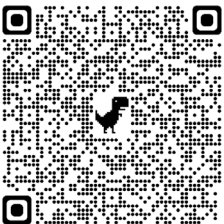
Anthony Azama (AA): Every year, it's the same. At the end of the day, I want to graduate student-athletes. And so it's not necessarily about who we're playing as much as what experience I am providing for every student-athlete that feels like they got a chance to compete in the postseason. I think that's a unique experience.

It's something that I didn't get a chance to experience in college. So I think this is my way of paying it forward for every young person here to maximize what this great institution can provide to set them up for a lifetime of success.

SL: Are there any new plans or initiatives for this year that haven't been in place in the past? Is there anything different that you're looking to do going forward?

AA: The points of emphasis are people, resources, facilities. From a resource standpoint, we're looking at continuously being aggressive with the W Club and Annual Fund, because that allows us to make sure we're trying to provide an equitable experience. One of the areas that I look at and evaluate is strength of schedule. I want our young people to experience playing the very best, because that's why they come here. And then there's some things that we need to do from a facility standpoint.

Read the rest online!



Volleyball sweeps competition at Loras Invitational

JACOB RITHOLZ
STAFF WRITER

It was a week to remember for the No. 14 Washington University volleyball team as they went 5-0, improving to an eight-game win streak and a 9-2 overall record.

The week started with a relatively quiet game at Fontbonne University on Sept. 11, where the Bears won 3-0. The Bears were tested in two back-to-back close sets that WashU clinched 25-22 each time.

"I would say we have done really well playing together as a team," senior middle blocker Zoe Foster wrote in a statement to Student Life. "We have great team chemistry, and it shows on the court in those close sets."

The Bears led the Griffins in points, kills, blocks, assists, and digs. Junior setter Sam Buckley led all players in assists, a feat she remarkably replicated each match for the entire week.

"She is our setter and has done an amazing job running our offense," Foster wrote.

Buckley setting up the rest of the team allowed WashU to spread out the ball, with 15 different players recording a point against the Griffins.

"One of the reasons I think we are hard to defend is that

we have a lot of offensive options," head coach Vanessa Walby wrote to Student Life. "Sam can distribute the ball to anyone, and she has confidence they will take care of it and find a way to score."

The match against Fontbonne allowed WashU to tune up for the Loras invitational in Iowa, where they faced a grueling four-match slate in just two days. The Bears weren't fazed, sweeping the weekend with four wins.

WashU cruised in the first match of the invitational against the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, until a back-and-forth third set went up until the 30th point. WashU managed to eke out the win following a kill by senior outside hitter Jasmine Sells and a Falcon hitting error to end the match 30-28.

"I think our team is doing a good job of staying calm in pressure situations," Sells wrote to Student Life. "We talk a lot about learning from our past performances. We had a couple of disappointing losses in our first tournament, and since then, [we've] focused on having a predator mentality."

The second match against Loras College was the Bears' closest match in weeks, with WashU squeaking by with a 3-2 win.

"I think they are trusting the process and each other," Walby wrote. "They seem to go back to fundamentals and discipline in those moments, and they seem to calm [themselves] and get things done."

Once again, Buckley shined with a game-high 49 assists, with Sells again closing out the decisive final set with two kills. The Bears would not be challenged this hard again, besting St. Norbert College 3-1 and Wisconsin Lutheran College 3-0 to cap off what is now an eight-game win streak.

"Win streaks are always fun," Foster wrote. "But the most important thing is to remain consistent with our effort and mindset as the season goes on."

This momentum is well-needed for the Bears to keep up in the incredibly tight University Athletic Association (UAA), which includes two teams ranked in the national Top 5. With only two weeks away from divisional play, the Bears are going to need every victory they can get.

WashU looks to continue the good vibes Friday, Sept. 20 at home against Gustavus Adolphus College, one of three teams that they'll play during the Bear Invite, a tournament hosted by WashU.



BRI NITSBERG | STUDENT LIFE

WashU Athletic Director Anthony Azama and UAA Commissioner Sarah Otey sat down with Student Life to discuss WashU, UAA, and Division III sports.



SAM POWERS | STUDENT LIFE

WashU volleyball defeated Fontbonne 3-0 in one of their five match wins this week.

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