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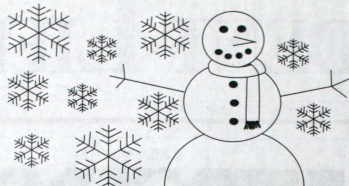
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Pulse

Compiled by Laura Geggel

Friday, Dec. 1

Ursa's Slam Poetry

Roses are red, violets are blue, slam poetry is sweet, especially when it's at Ursa's on Friday afternoon. Soul Vibes is coming at 8 p.m. Come chill out and listen to live lyrics in this South 40 place.

More Fools Than Wise

More Fools Than Wise is putting on their second annual Madrigal Feast to commemorate the winter holidays. Features a dinner, play and music from the small vocal chamber ensemble. Takes place in Umrath Lounge from 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Earthsoil Concert

Earthsoil is crashing The Ground Floor with their walling guitars and mad vocals. Show up at 9 p.m. Must be 19 and over to gain admission.
215 East Main Street
Belleville, IL
(618) 277-1026

Habitat Melting Pot

She's a brick... African hooosue. Eight different multi-cultural and social action groups will be throwing a party together to raise money to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Africa. Habitat for Humanity will match every dollar donated. The student groups involved are A.A.S., Habitat for Humanity, JSU, AMA, SJC, Ashoka, Mixed Students and WUSC.

The party begins at 10 - 1:30 a.m. in the Gargoyle.

Apocalypse Screening

Free film screening of Mel Gibson's *Apocalypse*. As the Maya kingdom faces its decline, the rulers insist the key to prosperity is to build more temples and offer human sacrifices. Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), a young man chosen for sacrifice, flees the kingdom to avoid his fate. Shows in Brown, Room 100 at 7 p.m.

Concert Choir

Washington University hosts the world premiere of *My Eyes/Your Eyes* featuring the music of Arber, Bortnitski, Rosenmiller and Vittoria among others.
Free admission
Graham Chapel 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Go Sledding!

With a high of 25 degrees Fahrenheit, Sunday should be an opportune time to hit up the Art Hill slope in Forest Park. Go out sleds at the Athletic Complex and cascade down the only major hill in the St. Louis area. Sledding beats writing essays any day.

Free Andy Warhol

He drew the Campbell soup can and Marilyn Monroe. Show your art connoisseur side at the Jim Hodges Exhibition of Andy Warhol from noon to 5 p.m.
12580 Rott Rd
St. Louis, MO, 63127

I-64 ❖ FROM PAGE 1

plan alternative routes to commute to and from campus. This will transfer thousands of cars to the community's other major highways and roads.

According to Linda Wilson, community relations manager for "The New I-64 Project," alternative transportation methods are in the works. She said that Interstates 44 and 70 will be re-striped to add another lane in each direction and maximize the routes' capacities.

Also, several streets running parallel to I-64, such as Manchester, Olive and Page, will have many changes made, including improvements to signals.

Congestion during construction becomes too severe, there is a worry of productivity losses, with University workers

likely to get stuck on roads during accidents or traffic jams. Along with the recent demolition of Prince Hall, which resulted in tighter classroom scheduling, this could negatively impact University academic life.

"Professors who normally didn't teach 9 a.m. classes are teaching 9 a.m. classes," said Kepley. "Some day you might not have a class in the morning because they [the professors] might still be in traffic."

Wilson also recommended, especially to University students, the MetroLink and Metrobus systems, which handle routes that run by I-64 and are fully subsidized for full-time students. She also suggested carpooling, telecommuting from home and traveling to and

from work during non-peak traffic hours.

"If a small percent of people carpool and a small percent use the MetroLink, there's a cumulative effect," said Wilson.

Another concern is the project's effect on emergency vehicles, which will also need to find alternate routes. According to Wilson, MO-DOT has been meeting regularly with the different emergency departments.

"Our contractor has committed to working very closely with the emergency response community," said Wilson. "As we work through construction on a daily and weekly basis, we will be communicating with the hospitals and police and fire and EMS and tell them what's open and closed."

This is especially important for the University's Barnes-Jewish Hospital, a BJC Healthcare hospital.

"MO-DOT and the selected contractor were very attuned to the special needs of the healthcare provider community," said June Fowler, vice president of corporate and public communications for BJC Healthcare. "We are a little anxious about this."

More information on "The New I-64" project can be found at gatewayguide.com, which will provide up-to-the-minute traffic congestion and accident information. The project's Web site, thenewi64.org, will also have weekly e-mail updates on construction.

Frequent exams may improve memory



New research shows that regular testing improves long-term retention of learned information and course material.

BY JOSH HANTZ

STUDENT REPORTER

Students everywhere now have one fewer defense against daily and weekly exams, according to research led by Washington University graduate student in psychology Jason Chan.

His study shows that taking tests on a regular basis improves long-term memory and recall ability, even for material not directly tested, a concept referred to as retrieval-induced forgetting.

"One thing we didn't know was whether taking tests would affect memory for things not on the test," said Chan. "Teachers can't possibly buy cover everything in the textbooks. What happens to the other stuff not tested?"

Chan and his team focused on how studying one subset of a certain topic can improve memory for a different subset of the same topic. They also reported on the disadvantages of cramming and studying the same material repeatedly.

"Retesting can help but its benefits are quite limited," said Chan. "It helps when the test happens within the next couple of hours. And cramming is quite good for memory in the short term but not in the long run, like a week from now. Constant testing allows recall for a very long time. Once you recall information, it's very hard to forget."

He also said students who do cram and reread material too often hurt themselves at the end of the semester when studying for cumulative finals.

"I don't want to make my claims sound too grand," said Chan. "On a broader scale, I'm hoping that educators will realize that testing is not just a way to evaluate students but a way to help them learn what you want them to learn. Testing has been getting a bad rap among educators. Students don't like

it. TAs don't like it. But there are a lot of benefits."

In addition to supporting more frequent exams, Chan also advocates short answer over multiple-choice questions. He said students tend to look at the answer choices first without thinking through the question, and then let those choices drive their answers.

"In that sense, it's very unlikely for students to think about other things related to the question at hand," he said. "Short answer leads people to think about other things about that topic, which also enhances memory about topics not being tested directly."

Furthermore, Chan argued that students who pick the wrong answer choice are more likely to remember the wrong information in the long term.

While much literature seems to contradict Chan's findings, he said the conditions of those experiments aren't relevant to student life. Opposing findings measured recall ability over lists of words in shorter intervals about 20 minutes apart. In reality, however, students take exams further apart and over more meaningful material.

Chan still emphasized the main goal of his research, though.

"My main purpose isn't to change curriculums, but there will be more research along this topic," he said. "More people will pay attention to it and more people will know about it. I'm very fortunate to have this sort of project picked up by the media."

Chan worked with Kathleen McDermott and Henry Roediger, III to publish the paper three months ago. They conducted their research over the past 18 months using undergraduate subjects at the University. The study was published in last month's issue of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

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BOLLYWOOD ❖ FROM PAGE 1



Bollywood actress Shabana Azmi and her husband, poet Javed Akhtar, spoke at the Assembly Series lecture in Graham Café Wednesday night. The couple is also famous for their social justice efforts.

This fact could not be more true for Azmi, who is a leading actress of Parallel cinema (popular in the 1960s-1980s), a member of the Indian Parliament, a UN Goodwill Ambassador and a feminist who speaks for women and against religious extremism.

Though she performs all of these roles, Azmi does not see them as separate entities.

"Whether it's my work as an actress or an activist or as Member of Parliament, I use all of these various positions to basically voice my concerns on women's rights, on social justice and human rights," she said. "I don't think there's a clear division between the activist and the actress. I think the line is completely blurred."

As a feminist, Azmi has been vocal in her concerns involving women and the role that they should have in society.

"[Women] need to be included in the global dialogue which is taking place, whether it is on religion, art, politics or economics and environmental degradation. For far too long, the solution to our problems has been unilaterally resolved from the male point of view," she said.

Concerning the poor, Azmi spent time improving work opportunities in rural India, and was awarded the 2006 Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award for her work with slum inhabitants

of Mumbai.

Though Azmi has worked to promote change, she realizes that the process is slow and turns to the words of her father, Kafi Azmi, a poet and lyricist, to keep her going.

"One day, I asked [him], 'Don't you get frustrated when change does not occur at the pace you want it to,'" said Azmi. "He said that when you're working for change, if you can build into that expectation the possibility that change might not occur within your lifetime and that you have to carry on working with the belief that one day change will come, then there will be no more frustration."

Her husband, Javed Akhtar, also follows this advice. He is famous for his poetry and lyrics, many of which carry themes of social justice. Warsi remarked that one of his songs was recently selected as the national anthem for youth in India.

Sabar herself was influenced by his music as a child.

"Akhtar wrote a song that has been my favorite song since I was 8-years-old," said Warsi. "It has been sort of a joke that it will be my wedding song."

Interestingly, Akhtar did not set out to be a songwriter or a poet, though he came from a family of poets. "I wanted to be in the film director or script writer, so I was so busy with that and

so busy celebrating it that I never got any motivation for writing poetry," he said.

Akhtar started to write poetry around the age of 32, and though at that time he did not aim to be published, he would recite his poems to a close circle of friends. One of them showed up at his house one day and told him that he wanted Akhtar to write some lyrics for a song.

"I had never once toyed with this idea, so I refused. I said no, I'm not interested," said Akhtar.

Soon, Akhtar became so involved with writing lyrics and poetry that he stopped writing scripts. He became so successful that his anthology of poetry entitled Quiver: Poems and Ghazals became the most-sold poetry book in India.

"[There is] no point in getting pressurized or being too conscious about it," said Akhtar. "Whatever I wrote was honest. I did not write anything for effect, but I wrote what I genuinely felt. The day I start writing for effect, then it will become dishonest and polluted."

In order to keep the natural quality of his work, Akhtar draws his influences from several sources.

"I have been influenced by so many people. If you get influenced by many people, then you learn that there is no point in idol worship. You have to find your own voice," he said.

Warsi already has plans for the future that will further the Hindi program and people's knowledge of the culture.

"In the future, I will enrich the Hindi language on campus and will have more of these kinds of events on a regular basis," he said.

As for the present, he is much impressed by the two people he brought to campus.

"I am very much impressed by the way they talk about education and the backwardness of Indian society," said Warsi. "I am influenced by the way they are doing in the country for the personal upliftment of the poor."

CABOT ❖ FROM PAGE 1

courages readers to maintain a positive self-image, something that Cabot thinks is especially difficult in the pressure-cooker of campus life.

"There's so much pressure in our society to be perfect," said Cabot. "Every image you see in magazines, on TV, you start thinking, 'That's what's normal, that's how you should be.' That's not necessarily realistic."

Without question, her fans appreciate her healthy outlook, as well as the fact that she seems so well-tuned to the needs of young readers.

"Meg Cabot's characters... have charisma, but we all may have and can relate to," added Page. "It's nice to see someone with a shortcoming we might also have, like lack of confidence, come out on top."

Cabot remembers her own college experience vividly, but admits that it's been a few years since she was a student herself.

"Since I'm not that age anymore, I set my book in a community where people are that age, so that people can have fun with that," said Cabot.

Some authors, however, choose to write about youth while they're still young. Julia Baskin, a sophomore in the College of Arts & Sci-

ences, is co-author of "The Notebook Girls," published by Time Warner in 2005. The book, based on the shared journals of her and three of her high school friends, has proven to be extremely popular among the young adult demographic.

Like Cabot, Baskin attributes her book's success to its relevance and honesty about life experiences.

"I think that when people write about where they are in life, their viewpoint is fresh," she said. "When you're living in a moment, you can't judge it, you just simply have to be a part of it and react as it happens. I think this reaction is what people find so appealing."

Baskin is just one of many undergraduates experimenting with creative writing on campus.

"I find inspiration for my stories everywhere," said junior Janylin Guo, who is planning to major in creative writing. "It comes from listening more attentively to people: how they talk, what they say, or by paying more attention to the little things."

"The things I wrote weren't necessarily about college life," added junior Antonio Rodriguez, who enrolled in a fiction writing class last spring. "But they were al-

most always about somebody I could relate to."

Without question, creative writing classes have remained very popular among University undergrads, with courses like Introduction to Screenwriting and Fiction Writing attracting some of the longest wait lists at the University.

"I'm sure word of mouth of how great these classes are is a really big reason why they're so popular," said Guo. "You can write about whatever you want to write about, you can curse all you want, you can experiment with sounds... and you get tons of positive feedback."

As an art student at Indiana University, Cabot also tried to enroll in as many creative writing classes as she could. She recommends that students take advantage of writing workshops at least once during their college years, and that not to discourage, if their work isn't well received.

"No one ever liked anything I wrote in my writing classes," she said. "Everyone had fun of me because I wrote commercial fiction... but be true to yourself, and you'll be fine."

Baskin agrees. "Everyone is so much more interesting than they think they are."

DORMS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

area we work together in as campus security."

Wild added that the students should take care not to let tailgaters inside the dorms, and report suspicious persons around and in the dorms. He also asserted that the relatively high number of reported forcible sexual offenses did not necessarily correlate with security.

You have to compare the University cultures," said Wild, regarding the news report. "There was an implication that the number of reported sexual offenses [was high]. The reality is, most forcible sexual offenses are

student-to-student and not a factor of security."

Wild stated that of the 29 reported sexual offenses from 2004 to 2005, 14 were made by acquaintances of the victim, and that forcible sexual offenses are generally underreported. A campus environment with a ubiquitous police presence, added Strom, would not be representative of the environment that the University wishes to create.

"What the challenge is for a university is creating an environment where people are comfortable about coming forward when such experiences occur. It's unrealistic

to expect in a campus setting [that] there are no sexual offenses," said Strom.

The role of students in helping with security by reporting crimes and being watchful, according to Strom, should be emphasized with crimes on campus.

"Part of what we have is a trusting nature among students, and because people value that culture, there's going to be episodes [of crime]," said Strom. "We couldn't hire enough guards to prevent crime, nor would we. The cost to the student is not necessary for that level of security and wouldn't prevent crimes."

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE: Men's Basketball IN MONDAY'S ISSUE: Swimming & Diving, Men's Basketball Preview

Lights, camera, football: Rams behind the scenes

BY ARDEN FARRH
SPORTS REPORTER

For Andy Goldberg, there is no off-season. He does it—all football, basketball, tennis, golf, even the Olympics.

Though not an all-universe athlete, Goldberg, a 1987 Wash. U. graduate, is as integral a part of a sporting event as any participant. Goldberg started working for CBS Sports just two weeks after graduating from Wash. U. and today now serves as a director for the network, covering everything from the NFL to the PGA Championship.

Earlier last month, Goldberg and his crew were assigned to cover the Rams-Chiefs game at the Edward Jones Dome down town. CBS Sports has the rights to broadcast all AFC matchups and any AFC-NFC game where the AFC team is the road team. Sunday, Nov. 5 marked the first time this year that Goldberg and his team broadcast a Rams game.

He gave Student Life a look into the preparation and execution of an NFL network telecast.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Six days before the game, Goldberg and his production team—which includes a producer, associate directors, broadcast associates and two announcers—begin researching potential storylines.

"Since we've never done the Rams," says Goldberg, "we have to start from scratch."

They look at tendencies of each team and familiarize themselves with the players on each side of the ball.

The Rams have a strong receiving tandem in Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce. The Chiefs' Larry Johnson had a breakout season last year and is having another strong campaign in 2006. Goldberg and his producer, Ross Schneiderman, have to decide what to include in the broadcast as far as graphics and video features that will supplement the action. Almost all of the broadcast's non-live elements have to be put together in advance, because the game moves too quickly to assemble complex graphics during play.

The Rams and Chiefs are playing for the "Governor's Cup"—a trophy awarded to the team who wins the battle of Missouri. Goldberg and Schneiderman decide to prepare a feature on other intra-Missouri sports rivalries. The short video piece will be used at some point during a break in the game's action.

Like the players and coaches, Goldberg watches each team's game film from the previous week so he knows what to watch for on Sunday.

Thursday

Ideas become reality on Thursday. Goldberg's team takes the research they've compiled earlier in the week and turns it into usable material.

The associate directors find footage of the Cardinals playing the Royals and past Rams-Chiefs games for the feature on the Governor's Cup. Both St. Louis and Kansas City are in the playoff hunt in their respective divisions, so Goldberg and Schneiderman order graphics that show the NFC West and AFC West standings.

As for Larry Johnson, the graphic artists assemble a graphic comparing his rushing statistics to that of other top running backs.

A lot of the work done on Thursday never makes it on the telecast.

"I would say 80 percent of the pre-produced material never makes it on TV," says Goldberg. "But it has to be built for speed."

Friday

Goldberg and his production staff travel from their New York headquarters each Friday to the city where the game will take place. Over the course of the 17-week NFL season, they will travel to most of the AFC cities and some NFC cities like St. Louis. Goldberg, Schneiderman and

the announcers (this week it's Don Criqui and Steve Beuerlein) attend Rams practice on Friday and sit down with head coach Scott Linehan. They watch game film, talk strategy and try to get a sense of what the Rams are going to do against the Chiefs, who will start backup quarterback Damon Haard.

They also meet with Chiefs coach Herm Edwards. The Chiefs will try to run the ball against the Rams' porous run defense.

Saturday

Part of Friday afternoon, but most of Saturday is devoted to the technical side of the broadcast. Tom McCarthy, the technical director, has already ordered the production truck and the cameras needed for the broadcast. Technicians work from early in the morning until late in the day. They wire each of the 13 cameras to the production truck, make sure the announcers' microphones are operating correctly, and take various measures to assure that everyone on the field and in the booth can communicate with Goldberg and Schneiderman in the truck. The production truck Goldberg makes final preparations, reviewing his notes from earlier in the week and going over storylines with his staff.

"Saturday night is when it all ties together," says Beuerlein, a former NFL quarterback turned color commentator. Beuerlein compared getting ready for a broadcast as an announcer to getting ready as a player.

"It's all about preparation and knowing each team's tendencies," he says. "Goldberg and I would take hours to get through, but the game takes you where you go."

The biggest difference between playing and announcing? "You're not as sore on Monday," said Beuerlein.

Gameday

Gates don't open for two and-a-half hours and kickoff



The St. Louis Rams charge onto the field for the Nov. 5 game against the Kansas City Chiefs at the Edward Jones Dome. The Rams lost the game 31-17.

isn't for another four hours, but the field and in the booth can communicate with Goldberg and Schneiderman in the truck. The production truck Goldberg makes final preparations, reviewing his notes from earlier in the week and going over storylines with his staff.

"Saturday night is when it all ties together," says Beuerlein, a former NFL quarterback turned color commentator. Beuerlein compared getting ready for a broadcast as an announcer to getting ready as a player.

"It's all about preparation and knowing each team's tendencies," he says. "Goldberg and I would take hours to get through, but the game takes you where you go."

The biggest difference between playing and announcing? "You're not as sore on Monday," said Beuerlein.

teammate at Penn State, Jimmy Kennedy.

9 a.m. Take five. This is the last timeout for team CBS. The entire crew (production and technical) enjoys a buffet-style breakfast of eggs and fried chicken in the bowels of the Edward Jones Dome. All told, it takes about 40 people to broadcast an NFL game on CBS.

By 9:15 a.m., video supervisor Peter Davis is back in the production truck. He's responsible for making the picture look good on TV. Davis adjusts color, exposure and contrast to get the picture to look like it does in person. Most of the time, Davis says, "I can make it look better than it really is."

10 a.m. Groomed on grassy field and a detailed game plan, it's time for team CBS to man their various battle stations. NFL Today, CBS Sports' pre-game show goes on air in an hour. With game time just two hours away, Goldberg

and his staff begin rehearsing. They have a live hit with NFL Today to prepare for, in addition to the opening of the actual game telecast.

10:30 a.m. Schneiderman leaves the truck to go to the officials' meeting. The referees rely on the network broadcasting the game for replays when a particular play is challenged. Once the head referee goes "under the hood" to look at the replay, he has 60 seconds to affirm or reverse the call on the field.

"We rely on what [CBS] sends us," says field judge Buddy Horton. "Sometimes we'll try to stretch out the call on the field so the production crew has time to get replays to the officials' booth. But we're at the mercy of the video operators."

11:35 a.m. By now fans have started to dot the empty rows of seats inside the dome. Rehearsal begins

See RAMS, page 5

SEASON PREVIEW

Ready for another night at gon

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW: New look for young women's hoop team

BY CARRIE JARNA
SPORTS REPORTER

As the clocks tick down, the Bears are in their respective locker rooms going over last minute points of focus. The small Thanksgiving weekend crowd consists mainly of parents and local diehards; they are all chat quietly about the holiday.

A stream of coaches files out of the room adjacent to the Field House and stuffed to the side of the door. A muffled chant can be heard that grows louder with the passing seconds: "Bears, get ready to roll!"

The women's basketball team is waiting in the wings for its next opponent, Lake Forest College. The Bears would go on to lose the game in overtime after a Lake Forest player nailed a shot from behind half court in the waning seconds of regulation.

Head coach Nancy Fabhey's program, a longtime Division III team, has been in unexpected territory. With three losses already on the young season, the same number of defeats as all of last season, the Bears are playing a waiting game. They are waiting for freshmen to become acquainted with the team's surprisingly important roles, waiting for the lessons to be learned, and waiting for the tough UAA competition to come knocking.

There are a number of reasons the Bears have a different feel this season. With the introduction of a pair of All-Americans in Danielle Beecher and Kelly Manning, along with last season's UAA Player of the Year who together contributed nearly 45 points per game, the Bears are searching for new sources of regulation.

"You can never replace the people and their styles of play; you have to be the new kid on the block and try to force people into a similar style to force

play," said Fabhey. "We recognize their loss but we have to let people develop in their own way."

And with a shortage of post players, the defensive line is shifted to a four-guard set. "We try to play to our team's strengths. We still have to keep the tempo up and play great defense, but getting better every game is key for this team," said Fabhey.

The guards seem ready to step up to the challenge. Senior captain Sarah Schell entered the season ranked second on the school assists list and is averaging 11 points per game thus far. Last year's UAA freshman of the year, Sharron-Lei Dacanay will share the point guard responsibilities with Schell. Her 13.5 points and nearly four assists per game led the Bears in both categories. Standing only 5'3", Dacanay's gritty defense and surprising maneuverability in the lane proves that solid ball handling and quick feet can compensate for height.

Classmate Jill Brandt will also need to step into the hole left by Manning. Dropping a career-high 16 points against Central College and a 10-point run in the key moments of the second half coming in and knocking down shots, and she plays with that type of confidence and intensity that she is capable of scoring from outside the paint. "There's nothing like a kid just coming in and knocking down shots, and she plays with that type of confidence and intensity that she is capable of scoring from outside the paint."

While some of the focus may have shifted to the perimeter, the post play will be even more essential this season. Senior captain Rebecca Parker leads a pack of post players that will need to focus on rebounding in order to start the team's trademark transition offense. Sophomore Jennifer McFarlin averaged 4.2 rebounds per game last season.

Senior captain Jenny Southworth is floating between the post and perimeter and is averaging two rebounds per game this season. "Rebounding, cutting down turnovers, and responding to pressure situations are always the keys to our success," agreed Fabhey.

The returning players are joined by a host of freshmen that will be looked to more than in years past. "We're making the freshmen as a whole grow up fast and I think they'll respond well to it," said Fabhey. Zoe Linn has made the most immediate impact averaging 10 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. "Zoe is just aggressive and you don't find that much in a freshman," said Fabhey. "I always ask my players, 'What do you want when you are when you play against them?'"

Laura Lane-Steel and sophomore transfer Haley Ward are "glue players" that hold the major contributors together and add significantly off the bench through steals, solid defense, and sheer hustle.

"We need a team full of different ways that we have to win ball games," said Fabhey. "Defensively we need to be strong and pick up rebounds. What do you want when you are when you play against them?"

With a turn back to total team play and away from the reliance on just a couple of players to shoot threats, senior captain Kelly Hark, classmate Sarah Tibberson and a deep bench will be essential to the Bears success this season.

are more questions but I'm confident there are answers."

With a record of 2-3 before facing the tough competition in the UAA, the Bears' coaching prowess qualified for postseason season last year. Fabhey stressed the importance of the game's fundamentals. "Everyone seems to be worried about the 'tradition' of Bears basketball. We have to go back to the foundation of that tradition in the first place. If you take care of boxing out, working hard and getting better, the winning comes. If you start thinking about 'oh my God we're not winning,' you start to lose focus of why we play in the first place."

Fabhey certainly knows the essentials of winning the bed jerseys in the UAA. The Bears' championships (1998-2001) and has never had a losing season since. The Bears' success in the UAA 21 years ago. With a handful of experienced players and many others waiting to be added, the Bears' coaching prowess will have to be utilized more than in the years of Manning and Beecher.

"I've never been a fan of losing," remarked Fabhey, "but I don't want to be a fan of losing. If you don't have games that aren't challenging." Picked to be tops in the UAA in the preseason poll and originally ranked fourth nationally, the Bears will face the underdog University of Rochester, who has already taken down the top-ranked team, and other top 25 teams come conference time.

With no sure wins in the conference this season, the Bears' future is truly in its own hands. Fabhey, "We recognize that we're young in some respects, but that can't be an excuse. We want to win but we need to focus on going for better and getting to know what kind of team we are. There

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Rating:



BY MARCO GARNER AND
ALEX NICHOLSON
SCENE STAFF REPORTERS

Atlas Restaurant is not quite what one would typically see as a college hangout. The food, though, reasonably priced for its superb quality, is generally above the average student's budget and the clientele probably had their last taste of dorm food back during the Nixon administration. As one member of our party put it, our presence at the restaurant, "lowered the average age in the room by several years."

Though we were slightly discouraged by these initial findings, we had heard from several sources that the food was some of the best in the area, and that it would be a great place to return to if it lived up to expectations. The chic, brightly lit Atlas dining room was packed with

a forty-five minute wait the night that we visited, but our accommodating hostess found us room at the bar, which was cozy enough for us to decide to wait rather than hold on for a table. We ordered drinks from the impressive wine list, which featured several by the glass, and began to study the menu.

The heavily French-influenced bill of fare featured traditional bistro style cuisine alongside dishes with American and Italian roots. For appetizers, we decided to go for an eclectic mix and ordered the crab cake, ricotta gnocchi and the mushroom bisque. All three arrived quickly and were superb. The crab cake, pan-seared to form a delicately crisp crust on the exterior, was perfectly seared with morsels of lobster. Alongside it came a beautiful micro salad of baby arugula with a tangy lemon vinaigrette that was just the

right complement to the crab. The ricotta gnocchi were a treat to the tongue. Fluffy as clouds and served with a tangy gremolata cream sauce that melted in the mouth along with the dumplings. Pieces of salmon punctuated the otherwise silky consistency, adding a bit of complexity to both the texture and flavor of the dish.

The mushroom bisque came with large chunks of wild shiitake, oyster and cremini floating in a just-creamy-enough broth, complex with notes of garlic, white wine and sherry vinegar. After this tour-de-force, we had completely forgotten about our original hesitations and even began to feel that the prices were perhaps too reasonable. Though the portions were small, the quality of the ingredients and the artistry of the dishes blew us away. Our main dishes, however, were not quite up to par with the appetizers, though still good. While the squash



ALAN NICHOLSON/STUD LIFE

Atlas Restaurant is an eclectic adventure reachable within the college budget.

and sage-filled ravioli were fantastically paired with a brown butter mushroom sauce and winter greens, the limp, buttery French green beans that accompanied them were disappointing.

A root vegetable casserole with a cheddar cheese biscuit crust was tasty, but not memorable. The fish of the day, a melt-in-your-mouth fillet of pike, was of

excellent quality, but the lemon caper sauce failed to truly arouse the taste buds.

Our confidence in the restaurant was revived, though, with the dessert: a luscious Marjolaine, a type of cake containing dark chocolate, hazelnuts and an almond meringue. Arriving with a dollop of creme fraiche, it disappeared within minutes.

Ultimately we decided that Atlas is a great restaurant to impress a date or take the parents without spending a fortune or venturing far off campus. The food is of the finest quality, the wait staff goes out of its way to be accommodating and the prices won't completely break the bank.

RAMS ♦ FROM PAGE 4

for the telecast's opening. Goldberg, Schneiderman and the associate director have to squeeze the 340 segment into three minutes and ten seconds. They try, but they're made for time slot and are ready for some football.

11:51:30 a.m.

"Have a great show everybody," announces Goldberg. Don Criqui, the play-by-play announcer, takes the tone from NFL Today and the broadcast begins. For the next three hours Goldberg directs the show, calling the shots. Literally. Any time there is a camera change, or a graphic is put on the screen or a replay is shown, it's because Goldberg said so.

11:57 a.m.

"Good job everybody," exclaims Goldberg. They've made it to the first commercial break. But there's no time to run to the refrigerator for another slice of day-old pizza. The national ads end, then the commercial break and the lights go off in the dome for player introductions. This could spell disaster. No light means no pictures. Goldberg and Schneiderman cut to the announcers out of the commercial break. They roll a short feature on each team's quarterback—Marc Bulger of the Rams and Dana Huard of the Chiefs.

The lights in the dome come

back on during the segment. Crisis averted.

12:01 p.m.

All of the week's preparation culminates when Chiefs kicker Lawrence Taynes toes the pigskin during the opening kickoff. Game on.

On the third play of the game, Bulger finds Isaac Bruce for a first down. Goldberg is furious. The end zone cameraman has missed his assignment and Goldberg didn't get the shot of Bruce he had asked for in the morning meeting.

"I don't tell you stuff not for a reason," growls Goldberg. But the show must go on, and Goldberg gets back to work.

12:16:30 p.m.

Running back Larry Johnson scampers for a 45 yard gain.

12:16:19 p.m.

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McCarthy answers it, nods and tells the associate director that Johnson's run was his longest this year.

12:16:22 p.m.

The associate director tells Schneiderman and within 15 seconds of Johnson's run, Braden comes on the air, "That was the

longest run of the year thus far for Johnson."

12:28 p.m.

Tout-know! Larry Johnson dives gets into the end zone. He puts the Chiefs up by six. While the broadcast associates are scrambling to cue up the replay, Linda Duncan changes the on-

screen scoreboard. Duncan is in charge of the info-box on the top left corner of the screen. Anytime there's a penalty or score change, it's Duncan's job to let the viewers know graphically.

The Chiefs go up 24-10 at halftime and go on to win the game convincingly, 31-17. For

team CBS, it's been a long day and an even longer week. But tomorrow is Monday and they'll prepare to do it all over again next week.

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To ensure that we have time to fully evaluate your submissions, guest columns should be e-mailed to the next issue's editor or forwarded to forum@studlife.com by no later than 5 p.m. two days before publication. Late pieces will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

University should address registration woes

Having students register for classes during class times is problematic and could easily be changed. When it comes to signing up for popular classes like Environment and Energy Issues or Introduction to Sexuality Studies, a few minutes can make the difference between having the opportunity to take the class and being denied. This is why registering exactly one's allotted time is imperative, and being assigned a registration time during class causes real conflicts.

Because there are several classes in high demand each semester, in order to attempt to make things fair, the university has a system that sends students within the same credit range between early, middle and late registration periods.

Staggering the registration is necessary so that students don't overwhelm the server by all attempting to register for classes at once. The rotation ensures that some semesters, students have the opportunity to get into the most well-liked classes while other semesters they may not, and that the older they get, the better shot they have at taking everything they want. While the rotation system seems to work out alright in principle, the problem with having a staggered time slot is that to get their fair opportunity to take classes, students need to register right away, and the vast majority of registration times are in the middle of classes.

This creates an unfair choice for students. While most students skip class in order to

log onto WebSTAC and secure their next semester's schedule, missing whichever student class one might have could be critical. And if a student cannot miss class for whatever reason, he will have to register two or three time slots after his assigned time. Obviously in many cases this is the determining factor in whether or not students actually make it into their preferred times and classes. Course offerings are one of the reasons students choose to attend this school, and students deserve the opportunity to take some of the University's better classes. Forcing students to choose between going to class, forfeiting their spot in an extraordinary sum to attend, and claiming their spot in the registration process really does force them to sacrifice some-

thing important.

To solve this problem the school needs to change its registration times. While there is no period of the day where there are absolutely no classes and no time is perfect for everyone, it's absurd that the time the University chooses to have students register is the one time that it knows works for almost nobody. Whereas almost everyone seems to have a 10 a.m. class, there are significantly fewer students taking classes in the evenings. Washington University should move registration times to between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. or have registration occur on the weekend to better accommodate the student body. This seems like a simple change that would help ensure fairness in one of the processes most critical to education.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Construction hurts campus safety

Dear Editor:

Despite the fact that most of my friends think I'm incredibly buff, I still find that walking back to my dorm late at night can be a bit unnerving. With all the new construction on campus, I'm forced to take the steps that are not well lit and that are a ridiculous distance away from a blue light tower.

In my first two years here, I felt like the University had a stronger grasp of how to keep its students safe when they're on campus late at night. I remember the days when I found myself walking back from the library or from a late night meeting on main campus and being able to get back to the Forty by easily getting to the underpass through where the University Center is now being built. However, my new options include either walking down the dark Forsyth sidewalk or walking all the way down to the far side of the Business School - most students naturally choose to walk down Forsyth.

While there's nothing we can do to make walking around the University Center shorter, we can do a hell of

a lot more to make it safer and make certain alternatives more appealing. Firstly, I think the "administration" (or perhaps the Student Union Senate) should take steps to add more lighting on prominent paths that students use to go to the library, the Business School, the temporary parking lot. For conservation purposes, these lights can be dimmed after 2:30 a.m., allowing those who leave the library at closing enough time to have a well-lit trip home.

Additionally, the blue light phone situation in some parts of campus seems very inadequate. More of these phones need to be placed around pathways that students use to go home late at night, especially around the University Center construction area on the North side of the project.

As campus changes for the better, it is important that the University remembers that its current students need to feel comfortable too. All we want are a few more light bulbs.

-Neil Patel

Class of 2008

JOHNNY CHANG | EDITORIAL CARTOON

Serious Talent

Dr. A appears that we are falling behind Emory in the rankings because we lack famous professors. They certainly have Salman Rushdie, and Jerry Center used to teach there too.

Agreed, so. But I start listing some celebrities to teach classes?

Yes, but make sure you don't spend too much money. Call VH1 and see if Michael Ben Black or Prince O'Heare is available.

Welcome to Intro to Gender Studies. I'm Professor Gary Bussey. Today's topic is why men are better than women.



Missing that loving feeling

It's lurking in my back molar. An awful, painful, toothy truth. What I suspect to be a cavity and what I fear to be a disgusting lesion. Yep, tooth decay drove it home: You really CAN have too much of a good thing. But I didn't think that applied to my favorite things. Two weeks ago, I would have put M&M's on my list of necessary daily pleasures.

But now that craving is gone and not because I'm afraid of becoming a toothless crone. No, my teeth besides, I'm just plain SICK of M&M's. What's up with that? Is it possible that my greatest joys can be exhausted by overuse? No one who knows me will ever believe that I've lost my love for ice cream at Ursa's Justin Timberlake's "Sexy Back," even Harry Potter books one through three. But I have.

Now pay attention here. I didn't say I got sick FROM too much ice cream. I said "Sexy Back." I can't even start the opening note. I literally grind my teeth in sheer disgust when it pops up on my iPod's shuffle. It's such a turnaround. I can still remember the bliss of discovering that song, the brief and torrid courtship in which every time was the best time. But the ecstasy morphed into obsession and drove me to the breaking point. I drove me to despise what I previously loved.

It can even get to where you think you're avoiding

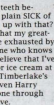
the trap. Case in point: my fixation with M&M's. Never liked them as much as a child; at Halloween I would trade them for Hershey Bars or Butterfingers. Yet, this year I casually discovered this portable and delectable chocolate candy all over again (or for the first time). It didn't feel like any great love affair to me. So sure, I indulged. In fact, I ate a bunch of them. OK, like every day. But suddenly, as I said before, I can't stand them. My overkill killed the thrill!

I realize this may not strike many as you that big of a deal. Why fret over M&M's when there are always Milk Ways or Snickers or Junior Mints to fill that vacancy in my stomach? At least I never got sick from them. So sure, I've worn out. I've found two more to keep me dancing all the way to class. So go ahead, you're thinking, and make yourself sick of this or that. At least enjoy the ride.

But even if you're short on self-control like I, there's a lesson here that applies to all sorts of passions. Not only chocolate and Hogswarts, but probably relationships too. If you keep the heat on high for too long, things will burn out. I guess you just let them simmer once in a while. And then later, you can enjoy the pleasures of rediscovery and obsession all over again. But it may be a couple years before "Sexy Back" is back on my playlist.

Tess is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences and a Forum editor. She can be reached via e-mail at forum@studlife.com.

Tess Croner



In the spirit of the holidays

BY SARA REMEDIOS
STAFF COLUMNIST

Vacation is a beautiful thing. Time away from the academic pressures and mini-sop-operas of campus life does a lot to give a girl a little perspective—not to mention the home cooked meals and healthy dose of "re-lit therapy." Thus, I have come back to school with a newfound appreciation for life, in spite of the 10 million papers I found waiting for me. I may even have a newfound gratitude for the opportunity to write those papers.

Actually, that last bit might be taking it a step too far, but even so. The week after Thanksgiving seems an appropriate time to pause for a few minutes, and, cliché though it may be, think about all these things we have to be thankful for. Bear with me, please.

For starters, in contrast to my earlier position that old dorms are hellish and new

dorms disturbingly sterile, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful people at ResLife for being so helpful and so thorough, even if only reactionary. Maybe the paint's still chipping, and perhaps I am still intimidated by what may or may not be living behind the cover of my air conditioning unit, but having such a responsive system in place for dealing with maintenance concerns is a beautiful thing. Once you figure out the right contact person, anyway. My point: there is no more mold on my bathroom ceiling, and for that I am eternally grateful.

I'd also like to give thanks for Bon Appetit. I'm sure that sounds strange to anyone who's currently going through withdrawals from their parents' cooking, but after hearing the horror stories of "surprises" found in the mass-produced cafeteria food for other college campuses, Bon Appetit is seeming pretty sweet. Amen for edible food.

The faculty also deserves a bit of thanks. It's true that some classes are not as enjoyable as others and that not all professors teach as tailored to our particular learning styles, but it strikes me that that's a good thing. I'm sure there are a lot of people out there who enjoy the classes I find tedious, and vice versa. Plus, I'd wager that a person's least favorite instructor in a given semester at Wash. U. is better than some teacher they've had in high school. That's definitely true for me.

I'm also thankful for all those people I don't like as much as I should, all those people to whom I give way too little credit. We all have them, the classmates who drive us absolutely crazy, the aggregate of "that kid" in every class when we never agree with and cringe when we see his/her hand raised... but I mean, at least they provide intellectual diversity! If nothing else, we are given an opportunity to

practice patience, or bote in on our debating skills. Or nap.

Last but not least, I'd like to say thank you to the non-denominational deities of fate who bestow our friends upon us. Yes, mine drive me crazy sometimes, and I'm sure a lot of people can relate to having those two members of the social circle who should never be left alone in a room together, or the one friend who needs to have his drinks counted lest he forget about cleaning up the evacuated contents of his stomach, but at the moment I'm okay with that. In the inevitable upcoming fall from sanity that is finals week, I know that I, at least, will be glad for that safety net to fall back on.

Sorry, I got a little bit sappy for a minute there—blame the holiday spirit. One last thing: to you, for indulging me.

Sara is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at sarem@artsci.wustl.edu.

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Human Rights Council blind to true terrors

BY DAPHNA SHAMASH
STAFF COLUMNIST

Among the United Nations' many committees is the Human Rights Council. The stated purpose of this commission is "preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights." However, despite all of the ongoing atrocities throughout the world, this committee has only found fault in Israel, the solitary democracy in the Middle East that has been struggling since its inception to survive.

Since its establishment, this council has held three emergency meetings all condemning Israel. In each of these sessions, resolutions have been passed denouncing the country and its human rights violations.

There has also been the one nation which a resolution was drafted against during a regular session on Nov. 28, 2006, when the council

tee finally decided that the genocide in Darfur warranted attention. However, it rejected a resolution proposed by Canada and the European Union which would hold the Sudanese government responsible for the many murders, rapes, and other inhumane acts against its own civilians committed by, according to the United Nations own investigators, the government funded and supported militia, the janjaweed. Instead their resolution declared that all participants "put an immediate end to the ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, including women and children, while not hindering the return of all internally displaced persons to their homes." The continuous murder of civilians in this region has not attracted the attention or horror of this UN committee as Israel has trying to defend itself against constant attacks from its neighbors. During their most recent emergency session on Nov. 15, 2006 the Human Rights Council stated the following in their resolution:

1. Expresses its shock at the horror of Israeli targeting and killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun while they were asleep and other civilians fleeing earlier Israeli bombardment;
2. Condemns the Israeli targeting and killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, as well as of medical in Beit Hanoun and other Palestinian towns and villages, and calls for bringing the perpetrators thereof to justice;
3. Denounces the Israeli massive destruction of Palestinian homes, property and infrastructure in Beit Hanoun;
4. Expresses its alarm at the gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory by the occupying Power, Israel, and calls for urgent international action to put an immediate end to these violations, including those emanating from the series of incessant and repeated Israeli military incursions therein;
5. Calls for immediate protection of the Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law.

6. Decides to dispatch urgently a high level fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun.

While the loss of 19 Palestinian civilians, including eight women and seven children, is a horrific tragedy that should be investigated further, it was not, as stated by the council, deliberate. The com-

"They have chosen to ignore real disasters such as this horrific genocide in favor of once again denouncing Israel."

mission failed to mention that Israel has used its own resources to investigate this issue and according to the findings of Major General Meir Kahane the cause of the catastrophe was an equipment malfunction in the artillery battery's guidance system which has since been replaced.

The Human Rights Council has also overlooked the death of over forty five civilians in Sri Lanka by army fire, which included a school where displaced persons were living. According to the Sri Lankan military, "The Tigers had been planning this situation since the beginning of this month by detaining the innocent civilians in those areas by force to be used as a human shield when the time arises." Interestingly enough, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, made a similar statement regarding the Beit Hanoun accident:

Israel left Gaza in order to give the Palestinians an opportunity to control terrorism and develop their own lives. Unfortunately, this has not happened. Israel is faced with constant attacks by the Palestinian terror organizations, in the form of relentless firing of Qassam rockets at the civilian population centers. Israel has no desire to harm innocent people, but only to defend its citizens. Unfortunately, in the course of battle, regrettable incidents such as the one which occurred this morning do happen. Unfortunately, these are

only a few examples of the horrors currently occurring throughout the world. It's amazing how a tiny country smaller than Massachusetts, whose is constantly attacked by surrounding nations and desperately trying to defend itself, is more often than not the object of worldwide scrutiny and condemnation. Despite its best efforts to stay on the defensive and only react when provoked, hence the name Israel Defense Force, Israel is a constant target, and the U.N. in particular has set impossible double standards that seem to apply to only Israel. Instead of recognizing the tragedy of Beit Hanoun and supporting Israel's investigation while focusing their efforts on other calamities where governments have not taken responsibility or any form of action, like Darfur, they have chosen to ignore real disasters such as this horror occurring in Israel. How is this an improvement on the council it was established to replace?

Daphna is a senior in the School of Business. She can be reached via e-mail at deshamas@wustl.edu.

Dealing with one's ranking in appropriate and fashionable ways

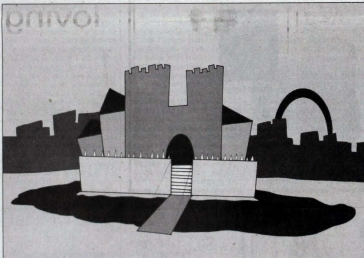
BY DENNIS MICKLEY
STAFF COLUMNIST

At this point, it's old news. St. Louis is the most dangerous city in the country. Some have argued the article's methodology and questioned the underlying statistics. Some have attacked the issue to the ever-expanding wealth gap between the nation's richest and poorest citizens and see an entrenched pattern of self-righteous indignation by the day. Some worry that the drastic differences in the neighborhoods could lead to a rioting in the cultural identity of St. Louis.

Let's put all that aside and focus on the relevant issues: how does this affect Washington University, and could it catastrophically endanger our U.S. News ranking?

Before I am peppered with the slings and arrows of self-righteous indignation, hear me out. I'm an advocate for progress. We college students blessed with the opportunity and education to make a difference, have a responsibility to prevent any sort of cultural calamity that could entail a horrific ranking takedown of the top 15. So, with this in mind, I have created several options for addressing the crime issue:

1. Make ironic T-shirt acknowledging ranking: This cleverly undermines the implications of the crime problem with humor, and makes the ranking a badge of honor, rather than a mark of shame. This same idea could also work for Darfur.
2. Use T-shirt profit to build a gigantic barrier around Wash. U. campus: This idea comes directly from federal government money. Congress, with the aid of several multi-million dollar think-tanks, has approved an \$8 billion fence along the Texas/Mexico border, with the implied goal of keeping all unauthorized illegal immigrants out of the country.
3. I, with the aid of my friends, will think tank Mr. Ducky and Thomas the Tank Engine, came up with this slight idea: we will be taking a bath: a gigantic moat around the Wash. U. campus, complete with sharks and drawbridges. The drawbridges could be lowered to let in



Bon Appetit employees, mail, and visiting speakers. They should be raised whenever the thick paper napkins from Subway, could easily mark the first step in a genuine, long-term process that slowly heals the inherent socioeconomic prejudices affecting us all.

Such a group could also look to the neighborhoods themselves and inform the Wash. U. community what it's like in these troubled neighborhoods. Obviously, this involves some degree of danger, but an in-depth analysis could conceivably be conducted with eye-witness reports from within a group member's BMW coupe, provided the doors were safely locked at all times.

2. Create a Wash. U. anti-poverty Task Force aiming for public reform:

With some assistance

"[I propose] a gigantic moat around the Wash. U. campus, complete with sharks and drawbridges. The drawbridges could be lowered to let in Bon Appetit employees, mail, and visiting speakers."

from the benevolent Treasury at Student Union, a group with this kind of initiative and noble goal could expect somewhere in the realm of twenty, perhaps thirty dollars. This kind of funding, combined with free commissions taken

from Bear's Den, and—if the group draws deeply from its pool of altruism—some of the thick paper napkins from Subway, could easily mark the first step in a genuine, long-term process that slowly heals the inherent socioeconomic prejudices affecting us all.

Such a group could also look to the neighborhoods themselves and inform the Wash. U. community what it's like in these troubled neighborhoods. Obviously, this involves some degree of danger, but an in-depth analysis could conceivably be conducted with eye-witness reports from within a group member's BMW coupe, provided the doors were safely locked at all times.

As a reasonable alternative to raise awareness, the film that sponsors a movie showing of a gritty, realistic film that reveals the nuances of a life in a troubled city. For instance, I would suggest Billy Madison or, if that is too edgy for a public viewing, any movie starring DMX. Popcorn and snacks should also be supplied.

3. Invite warring street gangs to solve problems with friendly game of ultimate frisbee: Because nothing solves the vicious cycle of poverty,

crime, and drugs like a good game of D. The soothing tones of Bob Marley can be played in the background, and the new friends can cool off with some Ted Drewes.

4. Move to Camden, N.J., now safe and prosperous at Number Two:

Such a move reports have Camden entering a new golden age following its rankings drop. Elderly women are being helped with their groceries at an unprecedented rate, and the enlightened citizenry has replaced fighting with games of Stratego.

On the other hand, it's in Jersey. So you win a little, you lose a little.

Some people may look at these suggestions and question their viability. To this, I have a simple response: You are a draconian monster who wants to see the perpetuation of a Hobbesian state of anarchy in the St. Louis region and beyond, and this probably correlates with a support for terrorism and a deep-seated hatred of freedom.

We're all comfortable and complacent in our ivory towers here, people. There's no room for that. Our futures and the future of this glorious city are at stake. Let's make a difference—together.

Dennis is a junior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at dammickley@gmail.com.

BY GREG ALLEN
STAFF COLUMNIST

Ten bucks says my Thanksgiving was sweeter than yours. Overall, it was plain old great: family, friends, food covered in gravy, basically everything I look forward to in life. There was, however, one very unexpected blip in the otherwise normal break. Lemme fill you in.

The day after Thanksgiving, my dad busts open my door at the crack of dawn and asks, "Greg do you have any idea who's sleeping on the couch?"

"What...?" I reply, barely conscious.

"The couch," he says again, "who's on it?" It was far too early, but the oddity of the inquiry brought me quickly to alertness. "It is Sam?" I ask, thinking it might be my friend who spent Thanksgiving with us.

"No," he insists and leaves with a great degree of urgency. I throw on some clothes and follow him to the family room, which lies adjacent to the front door. Sure enough, there's an unidentified male passed out on our sofa.

I was hesitant to get close, unsure that this wasn't some hardened criminal on a three state crime spree, but from what I could make out, he looked about 40 years old, between six and seven feet tall, and weighing about 250. My father, who was already on the phone with the police,

"I was hesitant to get close, unsure that this wasn't some hardened criminal on a three state crime spree..."

Fully aware of the gravity of the situation, I lean over to my sister. "Go get your camera," I insist. "What?" No... She was already laughing through my words I say, "Look, I need this. Just get the camera, and take pictures of the anonymous dozer, giggling all the while. You might be tempted to think this was to assist the police should we find the guy, but it's upon waking. You'd be wrong. We just thought it was funny.

I don't envy the guy, because 10 minutes later a cop was shouting in his face, "Wake up! What are you doing here?"

He sat up with eyes wide like a deer in headlights, obviously with no idea what was going on. It was then that I noticed he wasn't the aged beehemoth I believed he was. Rather he was a short kid who didn't look a day over 15. He scanned the room and nervously slurred words like "Girlfriend's house?" My family, and even the cop try to contain our laughter after recognizing this is just some typical teenager who just happened to do a lot of drinking the night before. I finally say, "No dude—just no."

If there was any darker depth to which his heart was going on, it was then, so then, as he finally realized how up to his neck in shit he really was.

Actually, I guess it ended up getting even worse for him. The cop took him outside, drove him to the window as he patted him down, and eventually cuffed him and put him in the back of the cruiser.

The cop then said to my father, "the good news is that he didn't have anything on him so you probably weren't robbed. The bad news is I noticed putting him in the back of the patrol car was still damp which means..."

I look at the couch and think of the man sleeping deep into the fabric. That's gotta be embarrassing.

We're not the tough folks, and so we decide not to press charges on the condition that he pays for the couch to be cleaned. Turns out though, that he's not fifteen, but is instead a freshman at the University of Kansas. My sister and I rush to a computer only to find that he happens to be on Facebook. We suggest that not being on Facebook is far less likely than the ID being fake.

Anyway, I'd like to say there was some moral insight to the whole affair, but I don't think anyone learned anything. I am, however, "No one's ever seen my life keeps playing out like a B-grade movie."

Greg is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at gcaallen@wustl.edu.

romance 11

You've been single for what feels like a decade. Finally, that cute guy in your discussion section that you've been flirting with all semester asks you if you want to grab some dinner, just you two, sometime. Awesome. But then when you get back from class, the guy from your freshman floor who you've always had a great connection with is sitting outside your door. He has this look on his face and then opens his mouth. "I just want to know if you want to hang out sometime. You know, not just as friends. Think about it."

Two guys, every girl's dream, right? Not always. When you have two people (or even more) who like you and have expressed that, eventually you are going to have to make a choice. The problem arises

when you are also interested in both. How do you decide? Will you make a decision and then regret it later? Though every situation is different, there are a few helpful ways to lead you towards a decision before you hurt someone or lose them both.

Pros/Cons. So maybe you don't want to actually fashion a list of "I TV sitcom-style, but do think about what makes you like each of them and what bothers you about both. One may be really funny, but has a hard time being genuine with most people, and the other may be really caring towards you, but doesn't want to hang out with your friends too much. As you start really thinking about these things, you might discover that the good or bad things about one makes the other a much better choice.

Think future. Though it's usually not the best idea to start planning out your future with someone the minute you find yourself starting to date them, when you are trying to decide between two, thinking about what might happen can be helpful. Can you really see him getting along with your parents? Would he be the type to wait for you while you're abroad for a semester? If you start picturing the future, you may find that one choice doesn't really fit in the picture. There's your answer.

Neutral parties. Sometimes when you're in the middle of a romantic crisis (don't let people think that you're lucky and this is not a crisis; they're



Laura Alexander

probably just never experienced it, your thinking becomes a little jumbled. Emotions can get in the way, and when one does a sweet thing for you one day and then the other does something just as thoughtful the next,

your head can start to create tests and see which (like a friend who is not close to either of them) she thinks one would be better for you than the other. Though you should ultimately make the decision, it can help to have a little advice.

Test them. Though it is kind of unethical and deceitful to create tests and see which one "passes," desperate times call for desperate measures. Maybe keep this as a last resort

because it is not the best thing to do to people you care about. You could either pose a question or a situation. For instance, if you have a problem at home you're trying to sort out, ask both of them for advice and see which reflects something closer to your own thinking. Or, if you've had a crazy week, tell both and see if one makes a real effort to come cheer you up. These will give you a rough sense of what it would be like to be in a relationship with either of them.

Dating. This once popular form of interaction in the romance world has become an ancient concept for many. But it is really one of the best ways to decide if you want to have something more permanent with someone. Go to the City Museum and see how much you like spending time with him.

But if you do choose to go down the dating road, make sure that neither thinks it's an exclusive thing. That's just asking for an awkward run-in when you're seated at adjacent tables and results in many hurt feelings (not to mention ruined meals). But if all parties are informed, have some fun and eventually the time together will lead you into the answer of whom you really want to spend your time with.

So before you start flipping coins or drawing names out of a hat, try some of these more practical techniques of decision-making. You will know who you really want to have eventually, but give yourself time to think it over. When the time comes and you show up outside of his door to let him know, you'll know you made the right decision.

One: Not the loneliest number

BY BEN SALES
SCENE REPORTER

The first time I asked a girl when I was in July 1998, the summer before my entrance into the seventh grade. Her name was Rebecca, a cute brunette who lived a couple towns over from me on the north shore of Chicago and who was, among other things, a huge Cubs fan. What a turn on.

She said no and ended up being the first of three rejections that I that summer,

a trend that led me to not even look for other girls until November of that year, when one of them had enough of the female version of cologne to send me a note on. And what did I say?

No, of course, with hardly a second thought.

Those of you who have read (or even participated in) my past couple of columns know that I'm not one to be called asexual, and the same was true eight years ago as well. But while all of my friends

were experiencing their first few hookups that winter, rounding the bases with all their might before they had to catch their moms' carpools, I was instead, the most deadly form of skin cancer.

Consider: A close friend of mine who goes to school in Boston was telling me about his girlfriend problems, which could have been anything from sex to her political views, depending on which of our twice- or three-weekly conversations it was. She was a great girl, and

it ended up that through their relationship that I became good friends with her as well, but it was hard to think of that when most of what I heard from this girl was negative.

Meanwhile, what had I to tell him? I was newly single that month and taking full advantage, letting myself go and doing things I hadn't done before that year due to lack of time or emotional energy. Like playing Frisbee. How liberating.

See, guys love their girl-

friends (or at least they should), but it's cool once in a while to take some time off, take a step back and stop caring so much about the small things that tend to bite at you when you're attached to someone else. You'd like, for example, having someone to look good for but it's also enjoyable to go a week without shaving.

The feeling is the same now as it was in middle school. Guys need time for themselves, time to enjoy being with

friends or to try new things, to experiment in life aside from the romance. To love, not someone else, but to embrace the here and now, to look out for number one, is important.

So to all those single guys living in despair, to all those tables for one just waiting for numero dos to take a seat, kick out that other chair and enjoy your meal. Hey, you can even let some spaghetti sauce drip onto your shirt.

After all, who's watching?

Health Beat

Tanning salons have become increasingly popular in the past few years as they offer a quick and easy way to reverse the effects of winter pastness. Although tanning was once associated with vitality and health, in more recent years it has been found that ultraviolet rays are extremely harmful to your health.

Tanning is a product of both UVA rays responsible for the oxidized melanin granules that turn your skin tan and UVB rays that are required to stimulate the melanin granules to rise to the surface of your skin. These

rays penetrate the skin and create a reaction that gives it a darkened or reddened color. Overexposure to UVA and UVB rays has been linked to a weakened immune system, premature aging, wrinkles and skin cancer, including basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma.

Tanning indoors does not make it any healthier or less dangerous. In fact, tanning beds are more harmful than the sun's rays. The UV rays produced by tanning beds are three times as strong as those produced by the sun. According to the National Cancer Institute, women who use tanning beds more than

once a month are 55 percent more likely to develop malignant melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer.

If you have a serious desire to appear tan but are concerned about your health, my recommendations include mist or spray tanning. Chemical sprays that dye your skin are completely safe.

Many people say that they only visit tanning salons prior to a vacation in order to get a "base tan." The "base tanners" often explain that if they are already tan, they will

not burn or have as much damage to their skin when they spend time in the sun because their skin will have built up a tolerance to the sun's rays. This belief could not be more wrong.

from the tanning beds. The UV rays in tanning beds are much more powerful than the UV rays from the sun, making it less capable of healing later on. This means your skin will be more apt to burning and/or damage when exposed to sunlight.

I have a hard time understanding why people would sacrifice their health just for a bronzed complexion. In my re-

search, however, I discovered that tanning has more than an aesthetic value. According to several studies, the UV rays in tanning beds provide tanners with Vitamin D just like the sun does. Vitamin D is recognized as a combatant of the depressive effects of winter months and as a restorer of feelings of pleasure.

This may explain why some people revisit tanning salons despite repeated warnings about their health—they may actually be developing an addiction to the emotional effects tanning salons can have. It is important to note that Vitamin D can also be found in several foods, so if you

truly believe in the emotional benefits of Vitamin D, you can load up on foods rich in Vitamin D, like seafood, dairy products and eggs.

If, despite all these warnings, you still choose to visit a tanning salon, realize that you do significantly increase your chances of getting skin cancer. People with fair skin are particularly at risk. It is also important to don protective eye goggles prior to lying down in a tanning bed—if you are going to choose to damage your skin, you should at least try and protect your eyes from any harm that could result from exposure to the UV lights.

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