

# STUDENT LIFE

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## University plans Web site design overhaul

BY PUNEET KOLLIPARA  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Tulips garnish the preview of the newly redesigned Washington University Web site design on the homepage at [www.wustl.edu](http://www.wustl.edu).

The new Web site will replace the current design, which, according to Mary Ellen Benson, assistant vice chancellor and executive director of publications, is being refreshed after about three years on the Web.

This new look, according to Benson, will feature many improvements over the original, both in terms of organization and aesthetic appeal.

The idea for a new Web site originated in 2005, when a technology group affiliated with Student Union (SU) approached Benson with concerns about the current design. Additionally, many stakeholders in the University's Web site were unhappy with the current site.

"We decided that we needed a forum for people interested to get together and talk about the page," said Benson. "The people who represent that area of the University, I

thought they needed to hear each other."

A Web advisory committee, headed by Benson, was made to discuss the future of the outdated design. It included members of the Department of Admissions, two student representatives from SU and stakeholders in the Web site.

"The feedback almost immediately was we needed to redesign the Web site," said Benson.

Benson said that although the current Web site is strong in many ways, including its content, it has many weaknesses that hinder its effectiveness at providing information to visitors. One such major problem with the site, she said, is its organization and navigation.

"One of the things we discovered was, once you get below the top page, the navigation links were very inconsistent from page to page," she said.

The poor navigation system ultimately prevents visitors from maneuvering through the site as easily as possible and thus reduces the ease at which information can be found.

One such example on the University's home page is that, although there are 14 primary links in the main menu leading to other areas of the site, these menus are not always present on the main pages of all of the other areas, preventing easy navigation from area to area. Benson also said that there were too many of these main menu links, and it may have made finding some pieces of information a much more difficult task.

The other problems centered on the aesthetic qualities of the site. Benson said that the Web site was in need of a refresh.

"One of the complaints we heard over and over again is that it didn't have enough color in it," said Benson.

The background of the current design is mostly white, with small amounts of color as menu borders and borders. Additionally, she said that the banner on the current site is not as large as it could be.

As a result of these design flaws in the current Web site, the new design

See WEB SITE, page 2



The prospective new design of the new Washington University Web site.

COURTESY OF GALEN HARRISON

## 'Hoorah for the Bra' traces an uplifting history

BY ANDREA WINTER  
STAFF REPORTER

Graphic designer and Washington University alum Chere Berry recently published "Hoorah for the Bra," a book full of perky bra pop-ups based on her senior art thesis.

"Hoorah for the Bra" seems together social history, illustration, graphic design, historical photography and pop-ups. "It's a celebration of this undergarment and a celebration of women at the same time," said Berry.

The book traces bra-history decade by decade from the invention of the first bra in 1914 through the 21st century.

A pop-up of pancakes captures the flat look that was prized in the '20s. An ice cream cone pops out from an Ice Cream

body to represent the "erotic missile" look she pursued in her "Blond Ambition Tour."

The book is fastened shut with an actual bra-clip. Instructions on how to unclasp a bra with one hand are provided for "all you boys out there." Berry said that one interview for a design firm in New York City her male interviewer became very embarrassed after having serious difficulty in trying to open the book.

Berry said that she was inspired by pop-artistic cards and an adult pop-up book on people's interactive.

"I wanted to make something that was not two-dimensional, with an element of surprise. Pop-up books and bras just came together. I don't think of bras as an accessory, but a must. The bra is such an

item of mystery that it was fun to bring it out of doors," said Berry.

During her senior year, Berry had students fill out questionnaires about their bra-wearing experiences. "She did a lot of research, young girls and grandmothers. It's not one-sided but a very broad scope of the genre which is pretty good," said Scott Gireky, creative director and lecturer of the Visual Communications Research Studio.

Art students do not typically publish their senior thesis, but there have been a few exceptions over the years in other media such as Web design.

Berry said that her professors were very encouraging.

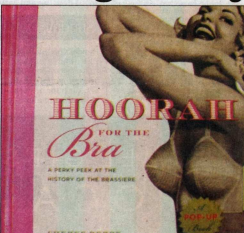
"It was a really ambitious project, but Chere was a hard worker and so self motivated

that I said great, let it rip," said Professor of Art Sara Spurr.

Gireky agreed. "With Chere's work there was always some cleverness to it. Something unique about it that made you smile, but nothing over the top," he said.

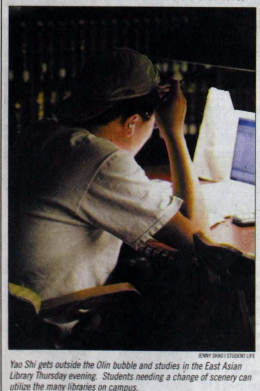
The published book is very similar to the work Berry submitted at the University. Berry spent more time her senior year researching and developing the written content than she did on creating the artwork. The text is the same, but she enhanced some of the design. Also, she had to make some concessions to keep production costs down. The original had a pop-up with real lights accompanying the phrase "Your head lights are showing." She regrets that she

See BRA, page 2



DAVID HARTSHORN/STUDENT LIFE

### STUDYING THE NIGHT AWAY



Yao Shi gets outside the Olin bubble and studies in the East Asian Library Thursday evening. Students needing a change of scenery can utilize the many libraries on campus.

## University works to promote South Asian Studies program, hires new profs

BY SAM GUZIK  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In an effort to create a stronger program in South Asian Studies, the University plans on hiring three new tenure-track professors whose specialties lie in South Asia.

The three searches are being coordinated between the Religious Studies program, the History department and the International and Area Studies program to find a diverse and talented set of scholars. Because there is no department of South Asian Studies, the new professors will be hired cooperatively between existing departments.

"There is a growing realization that South Asia is a... player on the global stage," said Beata Grant, professor of Chinese and Religious Studies, and the head of the search for a professor in religious studies. "South Asia has always been there, this is just an effort to give it more visibility."

If the searches underway

are successful, the new professors should join the faculty next year. This will add up to ten new courses, each specifically dealing with South Asia.

"Students will get many more chances to experience interdisciplinary studies in South Asia," said Mohammad Warsi, professor of Hindi-Urdu classes. "Students should have the opportunity to go beyond just studying South Asian languages."

According to Grant, the study of South Asia is best served by a diverse set of scholars because of its pluralistic history. Currently, most students taking classes focusing on South Asia tend to be heritage students, those aiming to learn more about their own culture. There have, however, been a growing number of students with no familial connections, looking to broaden their cultural knowledge.

"Many non-heritage students would be well served to think about South Asia

studies for their professional development," said James Wertsch, director of the International and Area Studies program.

The added courses may make it possible for students to major in Hindi, a language currently offered without the option for a major or minor, or for the creation of a South Asian studies track within the International and Area Studies program.

"We will have a track which represents a large portion of the world's population," said Wertsch.

Sophomore Vir Singh, who is currently taking Hindi-Urdu, was excited to hear of the changes.

"I'm definitely interested. I feel like there is a certain demand for that. People are beginning to see the need for a center for South Asian studies," said Singh. "We certainly need more South Asian courses, but the question if this will change will happen soon enough to effect the current students."

The effort to attract more

professors from South Asia comes as the University works to build ties with many schools in Asia, such as the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai.

"This is part of a major new commitment to globalizing the University," said Wertsch.

In addition to developing the study of South Asia, the University has begun to develop partnerships with 17 major schools around the world through the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

The Academy aims to draw top students from partner institutions to the University's graduate and professional schools. The Academy also creates opportunities for the exchange of professors, and could lead to more study abroad possibilities in the future.

"South Asia is a huge, powerful and ambitious place, and we need to build our ties there to strengthen ourselves," said Wertsch.

### Sports 2006: Cheers & jeers



The Cardinals took the World Series, IU teams vied for national titles—2006 was a big year for St. Louis sports and we have the complete post-season wrap up. Sports, Page 3

### That's one crazy burrito!



In their last adventure of the semester, the stepping out team hits up El Burrito Loco. How crazy do things get? Scene, Page 6

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## Pulse

Compiled by Laura Geggel

Friday, Dec. 8

## The Stereotypes

Tap your foot and nod your head to one of Washington University's all-male a cappella groups. The Stereotypes are performing their end-of-semester concert tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Graham Chapel.

## Wash. U. Opera

The Washington University Opera presents "In Women's Chambers." The production will include portions of three 20th-century operas: Benjamin Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia" (1946), Conrad Susa's "Black River" (1975) and "Little Women" (1998) by Mark Adams. The show begins at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, in Karl Umhart Lounge. Admission is free.

## How many links...?

→ to get to the center of the missing Tootsie Roll wrapper art. If you're curious to know if artist Tom Friedman got back his missing piece of artwork, show up to the Kemper Art Museum to hear Friedman talk about his work at 7 p.m. tonight.

## Dancing with the Stars: ALAS Semifinal

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10p.m.-1:30 a.m.

"Come to the hottest semi-final of the year where you can Dance with the Stars. There will be a red carpet. This is your chance to live the life of a celebrity. Tickets are only \$5. Tickets will be on sale in Mallinckrodt from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. everyday this week."

## Saturday, Dec. 9

## Light up the Night

Put on your yarmulke. It's time to celebrate Chanukah! The Jewish Student Union is celebrating the festival of lights and students of all religions are invited to attend. Starts at 10:21 p.m. with buses running from the Business school to Hill. Free drinks for those over 21.

## KARL Improv Presents... The December Show!

Join KARL Improv for its last show of the semester, an hour-long improvisational extravaganza! They will be showcasing some of their best short-form games, along with a few new ones.

Northwest Wohl

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Admission is free

## Swing into the Holidays

The Wash. U. Swing Society is offering a free hour-long swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. The rest of the night will be social dancing and eating pizza in the Gargoyle.

## Sunday, Dec. 10

## Handel's Messiah Sing-along

Hallelujah! Composer George Frederic Handel realized that it would be a great sing-along piece, especially around campfires and in University chapels. John Stevart, director of vocal activities, is directing the annual Messiah sing-along today at 3 p.m. in Graham Chapel.

## Looking back on The Black Rep

BY ELIZABETH LEWIS  
STAFF REPORTER

Bloody theater recently put the Black Rep, St. Louis' premiere black theatre company, back in the spotlight. It could attain such success from its humble beginnings as a Washington University theatre group.

The company, founded in 1976 by Ron Himes, an artist-in-residence at the University, actually had its beginnings as the Phoenix Theater Troupe on campus. As students, Himes and two of his friends wanted to create more opportunities for themselves and other African American students to perform on campus.

Marsha Cann, one of Himes' friends, was the only African American theatre major at the time, and one of her junior projects was to direct a one-act play called "Ceremonies of Dark Old Men." Cann used friends in her project, one of whom was Himes.

Ron was [the character] Blue, and that is when he was bitten by the theater bug," said Cann.

The first semester of Cann's senior year, her friends and other students in the troupe started performing around campus doing one-act plays and various scenes.

"Before I graduated, [Himes and other student] put the seed money together to form the Phoenix Theater Troupe," said Cann. "It provided a venue for creative expression through drama."

The theater department at the time was not doing much

of any work by African American authors. We were trying to create some opportunities for ourselves and for [other] African Americans to develop and showcase their talents," said Himes.

The first show the troupe performed was "The Gentleman Caller" by Ed Bullins. In the lounge of the Women's Building. The play, in addition to serving as an opportunity for actors to perform, was symbolic for other reasons.

"The play spoke to identity and [the] defining of the self," said Himes. Students appreciated the meaning of the play and other later performances, and the troupe developed quite a following.

"The response of the campus was really strong, particularly from the black students. Some of them became our core audience when we moved off of the campus and into the community," said Himes.

The company became incorporated in 1979 and adopted its new name—The Black Rep. In the winter of 1981, the company moved its first rehearsal space to the corner of St. Louis Avenue and 23rd Street after they renovated the interior of a church. This was a big step for a student organization that had only established itself a few years before.

"We didn't realize at the time how huge it was. We were immersed in getting work done, visibility and raising funds. We didn't realize its scope," said Himes.

In the early '90s, the company moved from its old location to the renovated Grand The-

atre in the Grand Center area, the St. Louis' arts and cultural district.

Since then, the company has established themselves as a force locally and nationally.

"Our biggest accomplishment has been longevity—growing more stable and becoming a better institution. [We have] established ourselves as one of the major cultural institutions in St. Louis and in America. We have been able to sustain ourselves. We have a professional internship program, and we are still doing the things we started out to do," said Himes.

Cann, who still works with the company by helping organize fundraisers and subscription parties, said that a lot of the success of the company has to do with Himes himself.

"Ron gives excellence and expects it. He is an example and a role model; he is the glue that holds us together," said Cann.

Junior Kristal Matlock, a student in Himes' History of African American Theatre class at the University, admires him for his work with black theater.

"He instills the need for black theater in his students by using the theater as a political tool and to inspire change and education in the black community," she said.

Himes himself is happy to be back on the University's campus after a nearly three-decade-long absence.

"I am very proud to have developed a relationship with the University for the past three years," said Himes. "It is great to be back to the place where we started."

## WEB SITE ❖ FROM PAGE 1

sign will feature many changes. First, the menus will be organized into one list on the left side of each page. Two columns adjacent to the menu column will have news headlines and upcoming events.

"I think the navigation is a lot smoother," said Benson. "We now have consistent navigation on the side of the pages."

The new design will feature a

much higher use of colors and a larger University banner to open up the aesthetic appeal of the web site. A new search tool and a directory link will be added to the top of the page. Additionally, special menu will be added to include "quick links," which lead to pages that visitors may find frequently.

The new web site will not only make viewing the Web site a

more pleasant experience, but it may help the school market itself to prospective students. According to Benson, an admissions representative said on the Web advisory board and provided input on the new site.

"The undergraduate admissions office is very pleased with it," said Benson.

Admissions officials were unavailable for comment.

## BRA ❖ FROM PAGE 1

had to leave the lights out in order to keep the book's price around \$20.

Berry said the University prepared her well for her career as a graphic designer.

"We'd really get to know our products. We'd have to research and conceptualize our products. It wasn't just about making something visually pretty," she said.

She spent most of her senior year in the Lewis Center with other art students,

drinking St. Louis smoothies, listening to the Dirty Dancing sound track and working on her thesis.

"We were cliquy in the art school because we were so isolated. I am super excited for Wash. U. art school kids to get on campus and be more a part of the community," said Berry.

After graduating in 2000, Berry worked as a graphic designer for Kate Spade in New York City. She tried publishing

the book directly after college but after a failed attempt did not return to the pursuit until 2005.

"When you've just graduated, publishers just don't want to take you seriously," she said.

Berry currently lives in the Central West End and runs her own stationary business, Cherry Berry Paper. She has recently spoken with students in the art school about how important senior thesis can be for careers.



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**Apocalypto.com**

IN THEATRES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8



# SPORTS

## Cheers and Jeers—the semester in sports

COMPILED BY THE SPORTS STAFF

With today's issue being the last of the semester, the Student Life sports staff looks back on some of the highlights (and lowlights) of the semester in the Wash. U., St. Louis and national sports scenes.

**Cheers:** To the Men's Soccer and Basketball teams for posing in Student Life's sex issue last Valentine's Day.

The footballers actually agreed to pose naked with strategically placed soccer balls. They certainly took lots of flack from the Athletic Department, but, according to StudLife's female sports staff, the student body certainly enjoyed it. Said one staffer, "What can we say, other than they have balls."

**Jeers:** To those teams who proved less accommodating to the idea of posing.

**Cheers:** To Shap Boyd, the defensive coordinator of the Wash. U. football team and to Larry Kindson, the team's head coach and another defensive mastermind. Yet again, the pair guided the Wash. U. defense to great heights, as the squad finished the season ranked as one of the top defensive units in the nation.

**Jeers:** To whomever it is that designed the team's utterly bland and predictable offense. With talent across the board on the offensive side of the ball and a defense that frequently puts forth Herculean efforts in limiting the attack of opponents, the Bears deserve something—anything—resembling a dynamic offense. Somebody around the athletic department has got to step up and find us a Steve Spurrier in the making.

**Cheers:** To John Snedker, the

freshman goalkeeper who played a huge role in getting the Men's Soccer Team to the playoffs. He came through big this season, with 0.53 goals against average. Not to mention, the rookie virtually single-handedly securing the team's play-off birth when, with the rest of his team prematurely celebrating its presumed victory over the University of Chicago, he deflected a point-blank shot in the game's closing seconds. Had the Maroons scored, there may have been no play-offs appearance at cheer.

**Cheers:** To the tremendous senior class that competed hard for four years of gridiron action.

**Jeers:** To the two overtime losses which ended the team's postseason chances.

**Cheers:** To fans giving T.O. a hard time.

**Jeers:** To fans making suicide jokes to T.O.

**Cheers:** To the standout performances by the men's and women's cross country teams and to the squads' hosting of a successful UAA Tournament in Forest Park.

**Jeers:** For no one seeming to notice either of these impressive feats.

**Cheers:** MeghanMarie Fowler-Finn. Recognition as the Dicksies.com National Player of the Year is a very fitting way for this stand-out midfielder to end her Wash. U. career. Fowler-Finn also received Academic All-American recognition from ESPN the Magazine. Congratulations MeghanMarie, and good luck in the future.

**Jeers:** To the NCAA selection committee for not giving the ladies home field advantage throughout the postseason.



THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM POSES WITH CHANCELLOR WRIGHTON AFTER ONE OF THEIR MANY VICTORIES THIS SEASON.

**Cheers:** Women's Volleyball Team.

The team most notably demonstrated the success of Wash. U. athletics this fall, compiling a 38-2 record and advancing to the NCAA finals. Congratulations ladies, you made the school proud.

**Jeers:** To not enough people supporting the team at home matches or recognizing the squad for its remarkable achievements.

**Cheers:** The Cards. They won the World Series. They brought a ton of pride to the city. Enough said.

**Jeers:** To the fact that they barely even made the postseason, nearly pulling a monument-

tal choke-job in the regular season's final weeks.

**Cheers:** To the men's soccer team's spirited first round playoff match against Wheaton College and to the student body who, despite the 90-minute delay in starting time and near-freezing temperatures, made their presence felt.

**Jeers:** The Now 10 study in criminology as witnessed on the soccer field. Not only were the referees criminal for awarding Wheaton what turned out to be a game-winning penalty kick on an absolutely atrocious tripping in-the-box call, but the Wheaton players also looked straight out of "The Shawshank Redemption." With their bright orange warm-ups, more than a few peo-

ple wondered why they were not picking up trash on the side of the road.

**Cheers:** To sophomore Sean Wallis' early-season standout performance at point guard.

**Jeers:** To not yet having a capable backup.

**Cheers:** To the outstanding senior class on the women's soccer team. Talia Bucci, MeghanMarie Fowler-Finn and Sara Schroeder have the soccer program in better shape than they found it as freshmen. This year the lady soccer Bears achieved some impressive marks, winning 15 consecutive games—a streak that included a 7-0 conference record and only four goals against.

**Jeers:** To the fact that Student Life actually might have to report on a league loss next season.

**Cheers:** To both the men's and women's soccer teams for advancing to the NCAA tournament.

**Jeers:** To the bracket selection in the Men's Division III Soccer Tournament.

On the men's side, a low-seeded team, lucky to be in the tournament (Wheaton), upsets Wash. U., then makes it to the finals where it loses 3-0, while the school that beat them in the championship round (Messiah College) faced much tighter games prior to the Final Four. On the women's side, the sixth-ranked lady Bears were

forced to fly to their sweet 16 match in Virginia against weaker teams which were geographically closer to one another and thus not forced to fly out to St. Louis. Maybe it is time for the NCAA to consider flying Division III teams a bit further for a better tournament.

**Cheers:** To senior quarterback Pat McCarthy and Nick Henry admirably sharing the reigns under center throughout the season.

**Jeers:** To the fact that they and over 20 other football seniors won't be returning for another season of action.

**Cheers:** To the men's basketball team for getting off to a terrific start despite losing junior captain Danny O'Boyle to a devastating season-ending injury. Troy Rutlis, Tyler Nading, Sean Wallis and a passionate group of role players should be the team to watch when students get back from break.

**Jeers:** Early season performance of the Women's Basketball Team.

After losing three of its first four games this season, the lady hoopers have failed to live up to high standards of previous seasons. It is time to step it up ladies.

*Have a great New Year everybody! Be sure to check out winter Wash. U. athletics.*

STUDENT LIFE presents a guide to places of worship in the WU community

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**STUDENT LIFE**



## Our daily Forum editors:

Monday: Chelsea Murphy  
cemurphy@art.wustl.edu

Wednesday: Nathan Everly  
neverly@wustl.edu

Friday: Tess Croner  
tcroner@wustl.edu

To ensure that we have time to fully evaluate your submissions, guest columns should be e-mailed in 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.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# The University should embrace mixed-gender housing

That we fail to offer the option of mixed-gender housing shows that, as a University, we are failing to treat individuals with different sexual orientations or gender identities as equals. In a progressive community that claims to affirm diversity and respect identity, a policy that trenches the idea that heterosexuality is the only identity worth considering when making practical decisions, should not be tolerated. Because the housing policy displays such a belief, and also because in general the University should afford its students the respect let them choose who they live with regardless of gender, Washington University needs to open to students the possibility of mixed-gender housing.

The desire for a mixed-gender housing option is not new. Associate Director of Residential Life (ResLife) Rob Wild stated that men and women have been asking to live together for the past 10 years, and that more recently transgendered students had informed ResLife that mixed-gendered housing options would allow them to live more

comfortably and potentially spare them the obligation of having to identify themselves.

In response to this student input, ResLife assigned the Room Selection Task Force to look into the possibility. The Task Force proposed that the University adopt a pilot program in the Village and Greenway Apartments to test mixed-gender housing. The administration turned down the proposal on the basis that it was unsure how the student body would react to the idea. Recently, ResLife put out a survey to the student body asking students for their feelings about mixed-gender housing. While only 32 percent of students responded, 67 percent of these students voiced support for mixed-gender housing, 22 percent voiced indifference to the idea and 11 percent opposed the idea altogether. Seventy-four percent of these students also said they would consider taking advantage of mixed-gender housing were the option available to them.

Armed with this information, ResLife will once again ask for a pilot program to be made available in the spring, and the University should allow th

option.

The most common objection to mixed-gendered housing is that boyfriend and girlfriend friends will live together, creating problems. There are two problems with this objection. First, if by disallowing mixed-gender housing the University wishes to create better living situations by ensuring couples do not live together, it sends a strong statement that it does not consider same-sex couples to be legitimate or as important as opposite-sex couples. Second, by assuming a parental role in overseeing students' housing choices, the University denies its students a respect they deserve—that as adults they are capable of making intelligent decisions about their living situations. Additionally, Wild said that schools offering mixed-gender housing had reported few problems resulting from couples choosing to live together.

Any conflicts that would occur from couples choosing to live together could be the couple's own fault, so there is no reason to deny students who want to live together the option to do so, particularly if the students have claimed

that not having this option is a hardship as a result of their gender identity. Though ResLife will sometimes be able to make exceptions for individual students who claim a mixed-gender housing arrangement will better accommodate their specific needs as a result of their sexual orientation or identity, it is problematic that this is merely an exception to the rule. It first forces students to come forward and identify themselves in order to make the claim, and second, it incorrectly says that there's something special or abnormal about the individual who does so.

As a student body, we have the opportunity to influence the administration's decision about implementing this practice. As students we also have an obligation to one another to ensure that everyone within this community is in full respect and equality. Therefore, we should support a change to the existing single-gender housing policy in order to further both of those values in the hope that Washington University will be able to put into practice the ideals to which it gives lip service.

BY CALEB O'BRIEN  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

As the semester draws to a close, I am entering the final throes of a mighty struggle. It's been a grueling few months, and I don't know if I'll last to the end of the year. My stresses over low my spirits lower. My situation is dire. But I'm so close. So close to finally doing something that was worth doing.

Something I could tell my children about one day. Sometimes, I'll tell people about what I've been trying to accomplish, and they'll scoff and look away. Clearly, few people can appreciate the magnitude of my efforts. But I'm sure those special few do exist, so I'm writing this article to let them know, and to strengthen my own resolve in this undertaking.

Since the beginning of the year I have not done laundry at Wash. U. I have, however, washed my clothes twice: once over fall break and once while I was visiting my grandmother. (And OK, so I washed a pair of pants and a shirt over Thanksgiving. But I really don't think that counts, in the grand scheme of things.) At the beginning of the semester I deliberately did not purchase any laundry detergent. I haven't broken into that free sample from ResLife and I have not spent a single quarter on cleaning or drying my vestments.

Several factors have aided me in my efforts. For one thing, I have collected, over the course of my 20 years on Earth, an extraordinary amount of clothing. Not only that, but I own each of those garments many times over before they become far too filthy to wear. Frequent showers help—let me tell you. And finally, when going home for a break, I drive. Although it may not seem an obvious weapon in my war on laundry, it has proved more than crucial. When packing to go home, I don't have to consider the size or form of my luggage: I simply grab my garments, tuck them in a laundry bag, throw them in the trunk, and then I'm on my way. I don't even bother to bring home clean clothes anymore. Although by the time a break arrives they are few and far between.

People have questioned my actions, and I'll admit it: it would be nice to wear clean clothes once in a while. But today is Dec. 8, and I go home on Dec. 20. That's only 12 more days—not even two weeks. I have a pair of pants that are really almost clean, and a few old shirts that I've been too embarrassed to wear before now. My sheets, I'm sure, will last me until spring break, and my towel still smells fresh. Once you get the socks softened, warmed and on your feet it's impossible to tell that they're dirty. The weakest aspect of my wardrobe is by far my underwear. My current supplies should last a while, but as hardy as my undergarments' elastic is, I don't

**"Well, if worst comes to worst, I'll forgo underwear and go commando."**

think I can stretch them until winter break. Well, if worst comes to worst, I'll forgo underwear and go commando.

The next 12 days won't be easy. My socks have stiffened into twisted, contorted forms, at night my pants crawl across my floor and hide and my shirts are plotting a coup d'état. And my sheets... I'm almost certain they were the light tan color they are now when I got them, but they very well may have been white. My dresser is nearly empty, and my laundry basket is groaning under the weight of filthy clothing.

Whatever matter: my resolve is stiffer than my socks. More plentiful than my shirts and even livelier than my pants. I will persevere, even if it means rendering every last article of clothing into lawn entirely unwearable.

So come the 20th, I will have gone an entire semester without doing laundry at school. I won't deny that I expect endless accolades and ample admiration. If you grab my garments, congratulate me, I'll be the guy taking the Chemistry final completely naked.

Caleb is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at clobrien@wustl.edu.

## MCT CAMPUS | EDITORIAL CARTOON



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Still sticking with the snow day: a rebuttal

Dear Editor:

I would like to rebut a number of points brought up by Ariel Cascio in response to my article appearing in Monday's issue of Student Life ("A snow day at Wash. U. too much to ask?" Dec. 4, 2006).

1. While it is nice that one of the housekeepers was shoveling when Cascio re-

turned from class on Thursday, the bulk of the snow, as we all know, did not hit until overnight. This shoveling was most likely not significant compared to the amount of snow that fell later on.

2. The fact that Cascio noticed "multiple clear paths" on the South 40 as a result of "several men shoveling" snow and even bashing away at the ice" does not convince

me that enough paths were cleared elsewhere. I know they were not, as long as I was on campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

3. Paths may have been salted during Cascio's 1 p.m. class; however, this is too late. If the University expects people to move about the campus at 1 p.m. (and earlier), the paths need to be at least relatively walkable by then.

If, as Cascio notes, salting is impossible earlier and paths cannot be made safe, then the campus should be closed.

Cascio states: "The burden of foul weather falls more heavily on faculty and staff who not only have to navigate around campus, but also to avoid campus." I never doubted this in my article. Of course it is important that people can get to campus

safely on the roads. But just because you can get to campus, doesn't mean you can get around campus.

Cascio also writes: "If the University truly closes and students are not expected to attend class, we can't expect the staff to endure weather conditions that are far less than those of the residents." Solution? Close the campus, and no one endures any weather conditions.

The bottom line remains that while steps were taken by the University to clean up the campus, they were insignificant and inadequate. Yes, the campus was eventually cleaned up, but not enough so by the beginning of the day on Friday.

-Andrew Zenker  
Class of 2008

## YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

Student Life welcomes letters to the editor and op-ed submissions from readers.

Letters to the Editor  
One Brookings Drive #1039  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

News: (314) 935-5995  
Fax: (314) 935-5938  
e-mail: letters@studlife.com

All submissions must include the writer's name, class, address and phone number for verification. Student Life reserves the right to edit all letters for style, length, libel considerations and grammar. Letters should be no longer than 350 words in length. Readers may also submit longer pieces of up to 750 words as guest columns. Student Life reserves the right to print any submission as a letter or guest column.

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Once an article has been published on www.studlife.com, our Web site, it will remain there permanently. We do not remove articles from the site, nor do we remove authors' names from articles already published on the Web, unless an agreement was reached prior to July 1, 2005.

Why do we do this? Because Google and other search engines cache our Web site on a regular basis. Our thought is this: once an article has been published online, it's too late to take back. It is irrevocably part of the public sphere. As such, removing an article from our site would serve no purpose.



# Don't panic

BY MICHELLE ALBERT  
STAFF COLUMNIST

If letters appear in a friendly enough font and manner as to put you at ease. And I also hope the words "don't panic" look familiar—they are the cover of the guide so often referenced in and titled after, Douglas Adams' book "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." The book's cover is emblazoned with "don't panic" in an attempt to reassure any hitchhiker, stranded on whatever planet he might have found himself on, the all is not lost. There is always a solution to the problem, always a way to get off that planet without losing

your head or your luggage. Or your towel, as Adams deems that to be incredibly important. Either way, the message is clear. Don't panic, and everything will be OK.

Now if only we could all take this advice to heart during exam time.

Don't get me wrong, I have been a victim of exam panic syndrome. During freshman year, I spent so much time worrying over my first set of college exams that I almost drove myself to tears studying. And after I walked out of the test? Well, that was just an open invitation to pick apart my performance until grades were released. And, you know, all that worrying never accomplished much.

nor did it help me feel better. (And I did fine on my exams, by the way.)

So, after some careful reflection spurred by a bout of nervous, self-deprecating babbling brought on by my calc exam (I was never one for math), I realized something. It's not the exams that are the problem. It's the attitude with which we approach them. Entering into a study session or the exam itself, with a nervous "I am so going to fail and have to drop out of school" attitude never works well. You end up losing focus on the task at hand and then ultimately not doing as well as you should. It's all a result of positive thinking. Or rational think-

ing, at the very least. During that tumultuous freshman year reading week, I realized that when I calmed down and told myself that everything will get done, surprisingly, it did.

Now I know that Wash, U. has a culture of stress. Everywhere I go, people on campus are either complaining to my sympathetic ear about the amount of work they have or are playing the one-up game. It's a constant competition around here, whoever has the most work due in the shortest amount of time wins. Don't you think that's a bit unnecessary? Yes, you are stressed. But so is everyone else. So, instead of trying to see just who is the

most stressed of them all (a commemorative sash to the winner?)

**"Yes, you are stressed. But so is everyone else. So, instead of trying to see just who is the most stressed of them all (a commemorative sash to the winner!) try to help relieve some of it instead."**

winner!) try to help relieve some of it instead. You'd be

surprised at how much more productive you can be.

Exam time is never fun. But it doesn't have to be painful. It will get done, I promise. Maybe you could even read "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" as a sort of study break. Or an exercise in perspective. I am sure being thrown into the Total Perspective Vortex is much, much worse than anything your professors can throw at you. And, now, if you'll excuse me, I have a paper to write.

Michelle is a junior in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at magalbert@artsci.wustl.edu.

BY ALVIN SILA  
STAFF COLUMNIST

On Dec. 8, 1980, exactly 26 years ago today, John Lennon was murdered in New York City. I thought I'd pay tribute by telling the story.

In 1980, John Lennon reentered public life after a five-year absence from music. From about 1975 to 1980, Lennon released no new music; he chose to be a stay-at-home dad to his second son, Sean, and "bake bread," as he said. Finally in 1980, he couldn't stay away from music any longer and released an album titled "Double Fantasy" with his wife, Yoko Ono. The album's first single, "Just Like Starting Over," reached the Top Five, and the album did very well too. On one song on the album, "Watching The Wheels," he stated that he was content to "no longer play the game," but John Lennon was back.

On Dec. 8, Lennon and Ono did a photo shoot for Rolling Stone, a radio interview and work at the recording studio for their next album, "Milk and Honey," which was eventually released posthumously in 1984. That afternoon, on his way out of his Manhattan apartment building, The Dakota, Lennon stopped to talk and sign autographs for the fans waiting outside the building. Lennon spotted a man named Mark David Chapman standing nearby clutching a copy of "Double Fantasy." He asked if he wanted the album signed, and Chapman nodded. A photo exists of Lennon signing the album for Chapman. After Lennon and most of the crowd had left, Chapman stayed behind. He waited there the entire day. When Lennon's son Sean, who was five years old at the

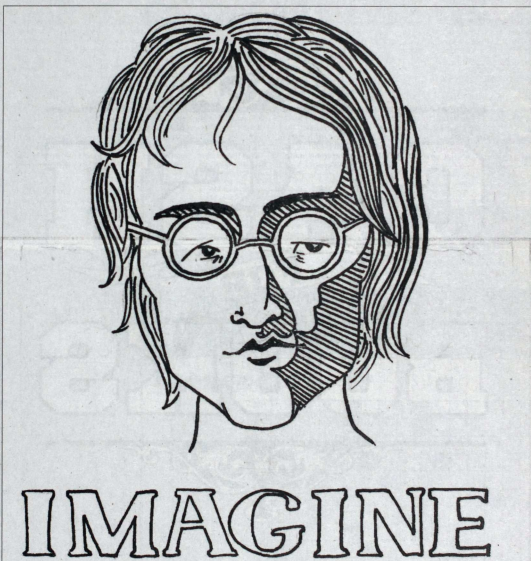
time, came home with his nanny, Chapman patted him on the head. At about 10:50 p.m. that night, Lennon and Ono's limousine pulled up to their building. Lennon got out of the car, and as he was walking towards the building, Chapman called out, "Mr. Lennon?" As Lennon turned around, Chapman fired five hollow point bullets at him, four hitting him. Lennon was taken to a hospital by police car and was pronounced dead at 11:15 p.m.

Tonight, hundreds of people will gather at The Strawberry Fields Memorial in a section of Central Park near The Dakota to light candles and play John's music for hours until the NYPD eventually makes everyone go home. In other countries and cities, there will be similar gatherings. No other pop star has meant so much to so many people. What other pop figure could receive this type of treatment? What made John Lennon so special was not only his genius, but his openness and honesty. His music, unlike many other contemporaries was a "warts and all" reflection of his life.

"I always wrote about me and didn't really enjoy writing third-person songs about people who lived in concrete flats and things. I like first-person music," he told Rolling Stone in 1970. He didn't hold anything back, and he was never afraid to do what he wanted to do. It's impossible to listen to his music and not feel a personal connection. That's why the world loves him. He was brilliant, and one can only imagine what he could have accomplished in the last 26 years. Goo Goo G'Joob.

Alvin is a junior in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at asila@wustl.edu.

# He was the walrus: remembering John Lennon



Rachel Tepper

RACHEL TEPPER / STUDENT LIFE

# Just the Facts

Finals are around the corner and Olin Library is packed until 3 a.m. Where else can you find a decent (and empty) study spot on this campus?

1. Attention freshmen: Put a sock on your doorknob and, if your roommate's courteous, the room is yours for the evening.

2. If you're looking for complete solitude, put on those stylish polka dot rain boots (or Uggs if that's all you've got) and go down to Wash. U.'s underground tunnels. A flashlight could be of use.

3. Chancellor Wrighton has quite a large office for one person—can he share? Nothing says upgrade from 3rd floor corner study cubicle like the best view from Brookings.

—compiled by Sarah Koff

# Snowballs in hell

I'm fed up with doing things I don't want to do. Outside, snow is on the ground, screaming out for a raucous snowball fight, and I cannot hear its call. Instead, I'm stuck in here, in my cluttered, cramped, claustrophobic dorm room, writing papers no TA would want to read and studying for a final that has satirically smuck up on me (I thought all my finals were in finals week! Is this how they punish you for missing a class?) So before my stressed-out and utterly lame Saturday slips by, I'm going to take a moment to ask, to plead, to beg my cruel masters to please stop killing my time. All this lousy responsibility has slaughtered my weekend, murdered my week, bloodied the year's first snow. I was

Tess Croner

meant to have more fun than I am having right now, don't you understand that? Dammn, I was born to be free, but I'm being raised a slave.

I can't help but resent how meaningless this all feels. The research paper I'm about to write will be nothing but a recyclable in two weeks' time. So why am I doing it? Because I have to. But why would anyone want me to so heinously squander my time? Everyone knows time is a precious and a tragically transient thing. Why take mine away from me? I could walk outside tomorrow and get hit by the Campus Circulation shuttle and all I would have to show for myself would be a poorly written argument for an assignment on our moral obligations to future humans. I have my entire afterlife to be buried, why bury me with all this work? The standard answer is that this is all for my own learning and betterment. I'm expanding my mind, cementing my newfound skills, challenging my mental horizons. Possibly, but I doubt

it. I highly doubt it. I feel that I'm simply becoming a more efficient and colorful whiner. Maybe I'll be a great thinker next year.

**"School is where we are taught that freedom is a privilege, not a right."**

Luckily for all of you, I just spent ten of my precious minutes in serious thought. And now, I have the real answer. The hidden truth to this awful "why?" is shockingly insidious. School is where they beat us down, smashing us into a squishy, pliable pulp that can be molded into respectable Wash. U. grads. You probably heard that school is to help prepare us for the "real world," but that preparation actually has little to do with social or practical skills. It's a mindset. School is where we are taught that freedom is a privilege, not

a right. You have to earn your snowball fights. You do what you're told or you miss out. You better get responsible and disciplined and self-sacrificing. Or no snowballs for you. And that sucks. I mean, really, really sucks.

I could be a revolutionary and propose that we all go on strike and make snow angels in Brookings Quadrangle. I could fast until Wash. U. students are liberated from oppression (but all this studying makes me so hungry). I could chain myself to the chancellor's desk or make protest posters or strip down and streak through campus. I could do all these things. I could. But I need to get this paper done, I really do. So hey, anybody with a little free time, any of you who were out there throwing snowballs, if you feel like stepping up to fight the brave fight, you have my blessing.

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



# Stepping Out

## El Burrito Loco

3611 Bates Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63111  
(314) 457-8600

BY MATTHEW KAUFMAN AND  
RYAN JACOBSON  
SCENE STAFF REPORTERS

A sudden craving for good, cheap Mexican food had us scouring the Internet and our friends' brains. We took a friend's recommendation to check out El Burrito Loco in south St. Louis. Although it was quite a schlep to get there, the titanic burritos we ordered proved to be a cut above any closer options. These burritos hit the spot without hitting our wallets too hard.

The dining area of El Burrito Loco encompasses two rooms, and you can either order at the counter or enjoy table service. As we perused the menu we munched on some free tortilla chips and

Rating:



salsa. The menu was much larger than we had expected; dinner platters and other Mexican specialties provided us with a wealth of choices. Still, we both decided that we would try the restaurant's specialty—burritos.

The burritos are handy; they come in three sizes, and you can choose from a bunch of different fillings that range from chicken in chipotle sauce to spicy potatoes. We settled on a beef and jalapeño salsa burrito and the Burrito Loco itself. The former was quite a treat on a plate garnished with lettuce and pico de gallo and filled with refried beans, rice and meat. The rice was a big hit. It had a citrus kick that really stood out. The

meat was right on, too. It was slow cooked and tender, and the jalapeño salsa made it pop with flavor. Don't even try picking these burritos up unless you want half of it on your lap.

But what is the Burrito Loco, you ask? This bad boy comes with beans, rice, guacamole, cheese, sour cream and pico de gallo. This could be a good choice for a vegetarian, but we opted to add chicken for a small fee. Overall, the burrito turned out to be a very tasty choice. By far our favorite part of this burrito was the guacamole. Freshly made, it had large chunks of avocado yet maintained a creamy texture. The chicken was not quite as good. It was slightly bland, but it did go well with



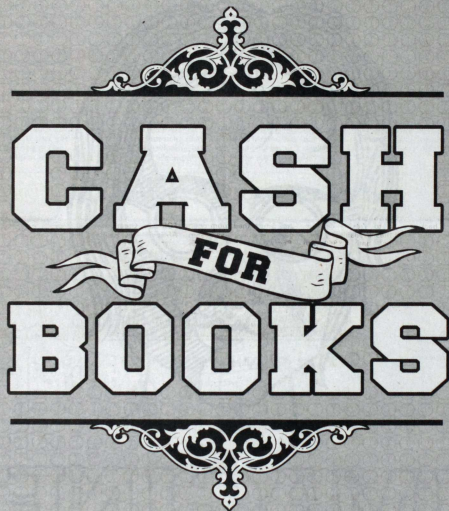
Matt Kaufman enjoys the namesake of El Burrito Loco. It's a bit of a drive away, but the fare is well worth it.

the burrito's mélange of flavors. This burrito also came lukewarm and we would have liked it slightly hotter. For such a no-frills spot, the service was outstanding. Our sodas were refilled early

and often and the server checked in on us periodically. The restaurant wasn't busy, but this could have had something to do with the fact that we were eating dinner at 4 p.m.

Overall, El Burrito Loco was a great alternative to the chain burrito joints springing up all over the place. These dishes were made with real care that you can

only find at a family-owned, authentic restaurant. Sure, this place is a twenty minute ride away, but if you find yourself on the south side of St. Louis or hungering for a nine-inch concoction of deliciousness, then El Burrito Loco is well worth the trip. Call us crazy, but we thought this place was pretty darn good.



## Buyback Locations:

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## Sudoku By Michael Mepham

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

Level: **1 2 3 4**  
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658 on your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!  
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## Crossword

- ACROSS  
1 Trolley sound  
6 Surprised sounds  
9 British race track  
14 90au number two  
15 Help-page acronym  
16 Strong point  
17 Sharp  
18 Prevent from succeeding  
20 Friendly  
22 Four-legged friend  
23 All tied up  
24 Funny  
26 Bow skill  
28 Flatbergast  
30 Lack of success  
32 Adjective-forming suffix  
33 Hind part  
34 Grassy field  
38 Culpaibility  
40 Capture  
42 Sun-dried brick  
45 Shoulder drops  
45 Withstood  
47 Take the gold  
48 Hear visually?  
49 Brad Pitt's William  
51 Sea cow  
54 Pose for again  
56 Informed about  
57 A longoria  
59 Hurried  
62 Purple shades  
65 Shoulder scarf  
66 Rub out  
67 Past  
68 Provide  
69 Spurred horse  
70 Smoked salmon  
71 Part of ICBM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
17					18		19					
20			21		22			23				
24						25						
26	27					28	29		30	31		
32				33				34			35	36
37												
38		39			40		41		42			
43											47	
48												
49												
50												
51	52	53						54		55		
56					57	58		59			60	61
62			63									
64												
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66												
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68												
69												
70												
71												

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## Solutions

W	E	N	I	X	O	I	E	E	I	S
E	S	O	N	O	O	V	E	S	V	E
T	O	T	H	S	S	E	N	E	E	A
G	A	S	H	E	N	S	V	A	S	N
I	S	I	S	E	S	E	N	I	N	Y
N	I	A	M	X	O	O	S	E	N	I
B	O	O	V	E	S	V	E	S	V	E
M	O	O	V	E	S	V	E	S	V	E
A	H	E	H	O	V	E	I	O	O	O
N	A	S	E	L	E	S	V	I	N	E
C	O	S	M	I	C	S	E	S	I	C
L	A	S	O	J	O	V	E	S	V	E
L	O	S	S	V	S	H	O	N	E	V

- 51 Lounging slippers  
52 Off to one side  
53 Cosmic spectacles  
55 Raw fish dish  
56 Jason's ship  
60 In addition to  
61 Bucks and stags  
63 Homer's neighbor  
64 Red or White team



# COFFEE

## Mirthful breaks from mind-numbing studying

BY YARDEN MAZ  
SCENE REPORTER

As exam time approaches, everyone needs a little spice in their life. Washington University is known for its dedicated and hard-working students who study ruthlessly for hours on end. This

winter, in the words of Emiri Lagasse from Emiri Lave, let's "take things up a notch" and show the world that we can study and have fun. All at the same time. Here are the best (and weirdest) quick study break ideas for the exam period.

2006.

★ Sit in a circle with fellow students and see who can eat six saltines in 60 seconds and then whistle.

★ Grab your roommate or any one else on your floor who needs a break, put your pillows against a wall, and have a handstand contest.

★ Play "would you rather" with people from your floor or dorm and come up with ridiculous questions. Example: Would you rather have a diet of only eating cockroaches for the rest of your life, or would you rather live in the desert for all eternity?

★ If there are a lot of people on your floor, you can play this game. Have everyone stand in their doorway and have one person be the leader. The leader calls out costume ideas, such as "huan" or "sao," and everyone must go to their closet, find something that fits the costume description and the first person to the common room wearing the right attire wins.

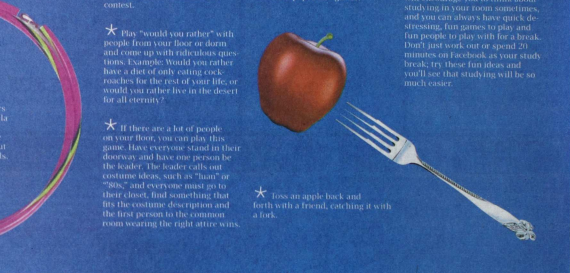
★ Have everyone on your floor put on their nicest dresses/suits and come into the hall for some sparkling cider and take lots of pictures.

★ Make Chanukah/Christmas/ Kwanzaa decorations out of construction paper and glitter.

★ Face your roommate after just finishing a chapter of reading or a paragraph of an essay and see which one of you can make the weirdest noise.

It is a common perception that Wash U. students live at the library. Hopefully, these ideas will encourage you to think about studying in your room sometimes, and you can always have quick depressing, fun games to play and have fun people to play with for a break. Don't just work out or spend 20 minutes on Facebook as your study break; try these fun ideas and you'll see that studying will be so much easier.

★ Assemble your floor into two straight lines down the hall, everyone facing the doors and holding hands. Take a hula hoop and see which line can get it from one end of the line to the other the fastest without letting go of each others hands.



## Health Beat

I love caffeine—it makes me feel speedy and happy in a way that nothing else can. It might therefore shock you to learn that I recently made a vow to remain caffeine-free. Here's why I did it and why I think you should consider it, too.

I never used to drink a lot of soda or coffee, but a few weeks ago I began to drink a half a cup of coffee most mornings. I would order a small and ask for a blend of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee. I did not think that amount of caffeine was affecting my daily life too much, so on days when I felt really tired

I started allowing myself to have a full cup of caffeinated coffee.

When I went home for Thanksgiving break I indulged in my new habit a few times. On the morning before I returned to St. Louis, I let myself have two cups of the coffee my mom makes, a delicious but strong brew. That night, even though I felt exhausted, I slept so lightly that when I woke up in the morning I felt as if I had only been asleep for a moment. That's when I decided I needed to kick my caffeine habit before it really started.

So how does coffee work? Caffeine is a stimulant, which

means it speeds up the processing in the nervous system, heart and respiratory system. It is shaped just like adenosine, a chemical responsible for slowing the brain down. Caffeine fools the body by entering the same neurotransmitters as adenosine so that the adenosine can't bind. The caffeine then works to replace any feelings of sleepiness with feelings of excitement and stimulation. This explains why people depend on caffeine to feel awake and also why



Brooke Genkin

people who are particularly sensitive to caffeine may be unable to fall asleep for several hours after consumption.

If you do drink a lot of caffeinated beverages, you need to realize that even though you feel fine you are still consuming a drug with several side effects. Feelings of anxiety, dizziness and nervousness (including a racing mind, pacing heart and quick, shallow breathing) are all characteristic results of caffeine consumption. In addition, caffeine is a diuretic,

which means that it clears your system of liquid. Not only does a diuretic negate the liquid properties of what you just drank, but it also gets rid of what was previously in your system. Thus, caffeinated beverages are likely to leave you feeling thirstier and less hydrated than you felt before consuming the beverage.

If you do choose to drink something caffeinated, make sure you follow it with a tall glass of water to avoid dehydration. This is extremely important for athletes, as dehydration and the resulting loss of calcium and potassium can cause sore muscles and

delayed recovery time after exercise.

Just because caffeine is found in food items like tea, soda and chocolate, does not mean that it is perfectly safe, especially when it is consumed in large quantities. I am not suggesting that you quit drinking caffeine cold turkey if you are a regular consumer of caffeinated products. I do, however, recommend that you consider a significant reduction in your caffeine intake. Caffeine is a drug, and being dependent on any drug to get through your daily activities is simply not healthy, regardless of the "quick fix" benefits.

## Romance 101

You're out at a restaurant with a friend and a couple is seated at the table right next to you. Though you're not usually an eavesdropper (okay, maybe you are, but hey, it's fun) you can't help but listen to these two. Your friend leans over and whispers, "Talk about in love." You smile and nod, but that's not what you were thinking. It's obvious they're in love. But there's something else about them that you can't really name. They have "that something."

What is "that something"? Did Rachel and Ross have "it," do Derek and Meredith have "it"? TV shows and movies spend millions of dollars trying

to recreate it for their audiences, but it's something only in real life. It's "that something" that allows you to look at couples and know who's going to last and who isn't. It's what keeps you together through the most trying parts of your relationship. And it is what lets you know when you're ready to spend the rest of your life with someone. But what is "it"?

Is it love? No, you can be in love and not have "it." For example, you fall in love with a girl who is the one of the sweetest people you've ever met. You know that she would never hurt you and that she would make you happy. But after a year together, you know that

you don't have "it." You could have an amazing relationship, but without "it," you could not spend everyday of your lives together. There's too much you'll experience, and without "it" you won't be able to get through all the experiences as one.

Is it chemistry? (Sorry pre-meds, no know that word in during the middle of finals.) Even the couples with great chemistry are many times missing "that something." You may see a couple that seems to know what the other is thinking and can make each other smile with



Laura Alexander

just a look, but that may not be enough. It's the couple that, when you're helping your clueless guy friend pick out a ring in a few years, you can honestly say to him, "I knew from the moment the beginning that this is where you guys would end up."

There's something different about them. Some clue that it will last.

Is it a soulmate? Where, now we're getting into some deep stuff as I'm picking out wedding rings wasn't scary enough. Here we get into the whole, does everyone just have

that one someone blah blah. Really, who knows? The question should not be who is that one you are destined to be with, it should be who could you have "that something" with? Less scary-sounding, right? You may fall in love many times, but who will you have "that something" with?

That person would be one to hang onto. It may not be that there is only one person that you can have "that something" with, but it is something special. It's not something you feel every time you fall head-over-heels for someone. It's something deeper. And unfortunately, something that seems to be completely undiscussible.

You'll just have to find your way into knowing.

And until then, don't settle. You may find a great guy, but don't close out the possibilities just because you're tired of looking and have found someone you could probably love. Wait for "that something." Maybe that's the hopeless romantic talking, but don't you want to be that couple sitting in the restaurant who people see and know you have "it"? Love will get you somewhere, but it's "that something" that will keep you going.

So what exactly is "it"? Don't know. But it's definitely something worth finding.

## The number one cardinal rule

BY BEN SALES  
SCENE REPORTER

We were friends from camp and I hadn't seen him in months. When, this summer, we were both back at home—he near Madison, Wis., and I in Chicago—we decide that it would be a good idea to find a few days when we could hang out and when the time came I took the three-hour trip by bus to go to his 200-acre farm (that's right, Midwest in America's Dairyland).

One time was spent well that

night, playing "Mario" on his old Nintendo, drinking beer and watching old episodes of "Alf," but when the next afternoon came, I had a problem. I had a tentative date with one of those friends-who-is-a-girl.

This wouldn't have been an issue, except that I had a distinct desire to get rid of those hyphens and get a girlfriend, that evening if possible, but I couldn't if I didn't leave Wisconsin soon. When the bus arrived I was deep in that state with the guy or go to the girl? Five minutes later I was on

my way back home, thinking with my little man and well aware that I'd broken the most important rule of Guyhood: Bros before Girls. You never dud. It's tough, I admit, because the guys you don't want to bail on are the same ones that you would dream for as they all but ignore you to hit on some chick at blue Hill. Any guy wants to see his friend in during the middle of finals? get with their better halves, provided, of course, he gets the details afterwards. So, what do you do? Where do you draw the line?

Some of my friends play it by ear, taking each choice as it comes and setting their respective girlfriends opposite their buddies time and again. This setup has the potential for success, except that there's always the chance that the conversation can go something like this: "Dude," says Guy 1, "I should stay with you and play video poker. I'll hook up with her later."

"No, man," Guy 2 says, "Go with her. We'll chill later, and you need to get some laid."

"Dude, seriously, I'm going to stay here. I'm not about to let

you down for some girl."

Guy 2 will undoubtedly respond with more encouragement for his friend to go, and the conversation thus has the potential to continue until: a. The girl calls Guy 1 angrily wondering where he is, or b. Guy 2 loses his game of video poker. Probably both. An hour later, both guys will have gotten nowhere, and they'll most likely end up sitting on their couch dejectedly eating Chinese takeout while watching the Strongest Man competition on ESPN2. This is not the situation we're looking for.

So dodge that circumstance and lay down the law. If you've got plans for a time, give it to the girl. But if you've made plans with one of your boys, you better stick around, no matter if you're discussing philosophy or playing video games.

As for me and mine, that night didn't go the way I planned, and after I got home I called the farmer friend and apologized for my conduct hours earlier in the time. I believe he was watching cable TV, eating his dinner on the couch. Odds are it was Chinese takeout.