

STUDENT LIFE

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Will student interviews alleged MO kidnapper

BY LAURA GEGGEL
NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of reporters requested interviews with alleged kidnapper Michael Devlin, but he chose to only speak with Susannah Cahalan, a senior at Washington University and freelance writer for The New York Post. Devlin is charged with kidnapping Shawn Herbeck in 2002 and William Owenby earlier this month.

Newspapers around the country condemned Cahalan for allegedly misrepresenting herself to Devlin and then proceeded to publish snippets of Cahalan's interview in their articles.

Cahalan declined Student Life's request for comment on her interview with Devlin. She has remained on campus and continues attending classes while her interview has received heavy national media coverage.

Cahalan interviewed Devlin this past Friday and Saturday for a freelance article in The New York Post's Sunday paper. According to The St. Louis Post Dispatch, Cahalan signed in to the Franklin County Jail as a friend of Devlin. He agreed to speak

with her in two 15-minute sessions where he talked about his everyday life, but not the alleged kidnappings.

It is unclear if Devlin knew that Cahalan was writing for The New York Post.

Devlin's attorneys, who advised him not to speak with the media, are accusing Cahalan of deceiving both Devlin and the jail to obtain the interview. The attorneys are applying for a gag order that would stop The New York Post and other publications from publishing material from Cahalan's interviews. The attorneys also charged that parts of Cahalan's Post article were incorrect and filed a motion requesting that the interview not be used in Devlin's trial, according to the Post Dispatch.

Robert Duffy, a journalism instructor at University College and former reporter and editor at The St. Louis Post Dispatch, said that it is unlikely that the attorneys' request for a gag order will be approved. Normally, gag orders are only granted for matters of national security.

"It would be extraordinary if

See CAHALAN, page 3



Michael Devlin, 41, (center) arrives at the Franklin County Sheriff's department Friday, Jan. 12. Devlin is being held in connection with two missing boys, Ben Owenby and Shawn Herbeck.

University hosts The Big Read

BY ELIZABETH LEWIS
NEWS MANAGER

Read any good books lately? By working in conjunction with a program called The Big Read, Washington University hopes to make the answer "yes."

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The Big Read is a series of two-month events aiming to stimulate citywide reading of a classic piece of literature. During the program's stop in St. Louis, the featured novel will be "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. The program will kick off at Washington University on Jan. 24 with an Assembly Series lecture based on the book.

The event includes participation from local organizations including the Contemporary Art Museum, the St. Louis Public Library and area public schools. It will feature art exhibitions, book recitations, film festivals and theatrical performances.

The Big Read is the brainchild of the NEA, which released a statement in 2004 entitled "Reading at Risk." Paulette Beete, an NEA spokesperson, explained that the study showed that less than half of American adults read lit-

erature—defined as novels, poetry, and dramas—for pleasure. Initially, the NEA simply wanted to shed light on the problem, but instead decided to use their ability to sponsor grants to make a difference.

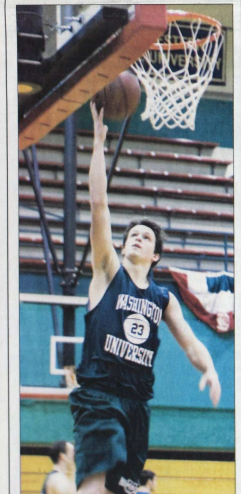
"Our goal is to promote pleasure and community relationships. People can come together to discuss the book and get to know their neighbors," said Beete.

The NEA piloted the program in the beginning of 2006 in ten communities around the country, including Little Rock, Ark.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Topeka, Kan. Each community voted to read books such as "The Great Gatsby" and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Books are chosen based on the consensus of the contemporary Art Museum, which has eight choices to choose from, with four more being added in the latter half of 2007. The selected books come complete with audio, readers and teacher's guides. While this is the first year that the event has become a nation-wide phenomenon, with the participation of over 100 communities from

See BIG READ, page 3

SILENT SHOOTER



Sophomore Phil Svartsen has developed his own following with a fan club of 10 to 15 students attending all of his games. What has made this Bear a phenomena? Sports, Page 5.

Charity items reap higher final bids

BY PUNEET KOLLIPARA
STAFF REPORTER

A recent study by two Washington University professors in the Olin School of Business indicates that people purchasing items on eBay are willing to pay more for them if they are affiliated with a good cause.

In a working paper titled "A Greater Price for a Greater Good? The Charity Premium at eBay Giving Works," Brian McMann, assistant professor of economics, and Daniel Effenbein, assistant professor of organization and strategy, found that items sold in charitable eBay auctions typically finished at a higher price than similar or identical items sold in regular eBay auctions, thanks to increased bidding by buyers.

According to Effenbein, it is not surprising that consumers might be willing to pay more for an item associated with charity,

though little empirical research on the topic exists.

"If you care about charity, you'll pay a little more than you normally would for the item," he said.

According to the professors, the idea for the study came together largely because they both did projects related to this field. McMann wrote a theoretical paper on how people are often willing to pay more for an item in a charitable auction than in a non-charitable auction, and Effenbein performed research on eBay regarding National Football League tickets.

To perform the study, the duo collected data from both regular eBay auctions and eBay auctions hosted through "Giving Works," a program in which sellers can choose to donate part or all of their sales revenue to the charity of their choice.

The professors collected data on a variety of items on eBay.

After picking an item from a "Giving Works" auction, they would find as close of a match as possible under normal eBay auctions and compare the two results.

"The fact that there are so many non-charity auctions makes the matching process easy," said Effenbein. Additionally, since sellers can vary the percentage of their revenues that will go to charity, the professors examined different percentages, ranging from around 10 to 100 percent.

McMann said that there were two different tiers of results. Items for which 10 percent of revenue went to charity typically observed around a four percent increase in price, and items for which all revenue went to charity saw around an 8 percent increase in price.

Despite the generosity of buyers, the professors also found that as items became

more expensive, the percent of the item's price that people were willing to donate decreased considerably. According to McMann, one reason that this decrease occurred was because more expensive items, especially those for which 100 percent of the revenue goes to charity, have a higher donation already present.

"One of the ways to think about it is if the typical price of a Sony PCSI is something like \$800, and the full closing price is going to be donated to charity, the buyers are already donating \$800 to charity, just by willing to buy this item at market price," said McMann. "They're not getting much more benefit from paying more than that."

Effenbein also suggested that the higher increase in price that the charity itself.

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Course evals continue to grow

BY MARELY JENKINSON
STAFF REPORTER

Course evaluations received an excessive amount of hype last semester with the promise of special video messages from certain administrators upon their completion.

According to Dean Henry Biggs, who runs evaluations each semester, there was a 72 percent increase rate, a 5 to 6 percent increase from the previous semester. "I think it plays a role, but is not responsible for the increase," said Biggs of the "thank you" videos.

Biggs said there were multiple factors that improved

the course evaluation response rate. Professors had an easier time e-mailing students to alert them that they had not yet filled out the evaluations, and department administrators had a new tool to get in touch with students.

"The overall response was much more positive... it felt more like a community," he said. Biggs said that although negative reinforcements were considered for students who did not fill out evaluations, administrators favored the carrot over the stick. He added that the positive atmosphere seems to be partially responsible for the high re-

sponse rate.

"A lot of the credit goes to the students," said Biggs. Many students understand the importance of doing course evaluations. Senior Alison Petok often fills out and looks at the course evaluations.

"I have a friend [who goes to a different school], she's actually having the experience of teaching and learning how important the course evals actually are," said Petok. Sophomore Della Heiman sees the value of course evaluations, but wishes they were less time consuming.

"I'm really honest, and I really take the time to do them, but I think they have

too many questions," said Heiman.

Heiman continued saying that she does not like filling out too many questions or rating the TA in a class. She did appreciate the option to expand her thoughts, however.

Biggs said that several other universities have inquired as to the success of University course evaluations.

When viewing course evaluations, University students have access to more information than 90 percent of other universities. Many students use the course evaluations when selecting classes. Heiman, for example, uses them

See EVALS, page 4

The 2008 presidential race—with a twist



While Barack and Hillary have received a media blitz in 2008 predictions, editorial cartoonist Rachel Tepper has her eyes on an unlikely candidate. Forum, Page 6

Class of 2010 greets its new members



January scholars recently arrived on campus, joining the class of 2010 in the spring semester. How are they adjusting to college life? News, Page 2

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J-Prog students adapt to life at college

BY SAM GUICK
ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

As students began returning from winter break last week, 37 students, self-titled "J-Pros," were settling into their dorms for the first time.

"Moving in during January was not much different from moving in during the fall. I was pretty relaxed, but I felt stressed because of my parents," said freshman Kavita Sood, one of this year's January Program scholars.

The current J-Prog, or January Scholar, students, who spent the past semester working at internships, taking courses at other universities, and studying abroad, are currently living in the Village House. This semester's January Program is identical in size to last year's, however, unlike in previous years, this year's participants have been roomed together.

Most of the students have already been on campus multiple times during the fall semester. Students can opt to take a three-credit class in the fall in which they travel to campus once a month for five days at a time to take the class. Many of the January Scholars also participate in the Freshman Summer Academic Program (FSAP).

While January Scholars apply at the same time as the rest of their class, they are admitted during the spring semester because of the additional space that opens up at the University. January Scholars often graduate in three and a half years, on time with the rest of their class.

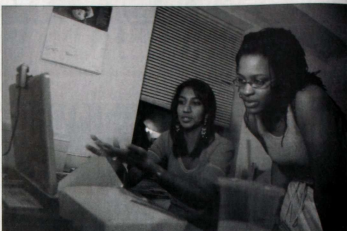
"We're a part of the class like anyone else, and, if anything, we are taking on a little more of a challenge," explained Sood.

In addition to the students' previous interactions with campus life, the Office of Orientation holds a spring orientation specifically for the January Scholars to help them adjust to their new surroundings and to meet current students.

"It might be harder for [the January students] to break into established social circles. They feel like they need to explain themselves for starting a semester late," said Danielle Bristow, the director of new student orientation and Parents Weekend.

Nevertheless, many of the J-Prog students do gain important practical experience by spending a semester pursuing avenues which would otherwise be impossible.

"Taking advantage of first semester and traveling abroad—in the first semes-



Kavita Sood and fellow J-Prog, Talia Dotson, look at the Career Center's website in Sood's room on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The two, along with all the other J-Pros, live on two floors in Small Group housing in the Village.

ter of my freshman year has helped me to grow and mature," said Deborah Lewis, a J-Prog.

"Because they have to make decisions about how to spend first semester profitably, they need to start shaping what they want to get out of their college experience right away," stated Harriet Baron, the coordina-

tor of the January Program. "Many freshmen are not aware of January Scholars when they first arrive on campus, prompting the need for explanation on the part of the January Scholars. During their monthly trips to campus, January Scholars stay on assorted freshman floors, giving them an opportunity to observe local

culture and meet students. "I feel like I fit in and am a part of a community even though I was worried about the fact that the rest of the freshman class already has made their friends," said Sood.

In addition to the standard orientation programs—like meeting with peer advisors and new student convocation—the January Scholars' orientation focuses specifically on social activities like trips to Skyzone and the City Museum. Additionally, the students' peer advisors are former January Program students themselves, giving the new freshmen an additional way to relate to the campus.

"Interacting with the former J-Pros" has really helped me to feel involved with the campus. We no longer look at them as being advisors, but as friends," explained freshman Samantha Greenberg, a current January Scholar.

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EBAY ❖ FROM PAGE 1

"This... suggested that when people are making major donations to charity, they're much more likely to make it to the charity of their choice," he said.

Two other major findings emerged from the research, the first of which concerned the auctions from which 10 percent of the final price went to charity.

"The auctions in which people pay 10 percent of their price to charity are interesting to us because we think this tells us something about the types of marketing campaigns that other firms run, where they try to associate their product with some charitable causes or environmentally sound production techniques," said McMamas.

The duo also found that in charity auctions people tend to bid much earlier than in normal auctions, suggesting that customers may attempt to increase the price early on to maximize the final donation while not necessarily having to pay the amount themselves.

"If you and I are going to bid against each other for an item, if I can get you to pay more for the item, I benefit if I also like the charity you're paying for," said McMamas.

Ellenbein concluded by saying that although the duo has made many interesting findings, the study continues. "We're still in the midst of it," he said.



Professor Brian McMamas compiled research on eBay and charity.

CAHALAN ❖ FROM PAGE 1

they got a gag order at this point. The story's already been in the paper," he said.

The attorneys also filed in a circuit court requiring that Cahalan surrender her interview notes to authorities. Devlin's attorney, Michael Kieley, could not be reached for comment.

Cahalan wrote for the Cadenza section of Student Life in the 2004-5 school year. Former Editor in Chief, Margaret Bauer, a

2006 graduate, remembered Cahalan as a valuable reporter.

"At one point she was being considered for the position of Cadenza editor. She is a fantastic, witty writer. She was also one of the only people that was really into it and serious about sticking around," Bauer said.

Duffy said that journalistic protocol necessitates clear identification of the reporter to the interviewee. "I understand and I

respect aggressive reporting, but there are just certain rules of ethics and professional discipline that have to be followed, and this is one of them," Duffy said.

"It's bad ethics. It's very tempting to misrepresent yourself to get a scoop," Duffy said. "Out of respect for the subject, for your colleagues, for your reader, for the general ethical climate of journalism, you just don't do that."

BIG READ ❖ FROM PAGE 1

around the country, the NEA already has plans to continue expanding the program in the future.

Victoria Thomas, the English department coordinator for the event, sees the program as a chance for the University to reach out to the surrounding community.

"It is an attempt to... show that reading can be a part of their lives, too. [The University] is not a fortified world," said Thomas.

The University sent an application to NEA last summer expressing their interest in The Big Read and ended up being the only university in Missouri to receive a grant.

Thomas expressed enthusiasm about the University's in-

volvement and added that the book's controversial subject of fire and censorship relates to the convergence of different viewpoints.

"It is a timeless classic because fire is something destructive but purifying. It depends on how you look at it."

Senior Angela Markle, the president of the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Society, thinks that the events can hold great importance not only for the community but also for University students.

"The Big Read is nationwide, and it is great for Wash. U. to be involved. For people not studying the humanities, it is easy to get caught up in school and not read for plea-

sure," said Markle.

"As an institute of learning, it is important that [the University] get involved," added junior Kellen Howarth, the vice president of Sigma Tau Delta. "Also, it is a chance for Wash. U. students to step out of the bubble and join the greater community."

Ben Uchitelle, the mayor of Clayton, Mo., one of the sponsor cities, said that the event would bring notoriety and good publicity to the University and to the city of St. Louis.

"I am pleased as pie that Wash. U. is undertaking it," said Uchitelle. "I am looking forward to participating."

For a full calendar of events between Jan. 15 and March 15, visit bigread.wustl.edu.

MEET THE COMPANY

Here's your chance to learn more about a variety of employers who have job and internship opportunities for current students. Log on to eRecruiting at www.careers.wustl.edu and use the "Calendar Search" function for more information.

Procter & Gamble, Manufacturing Engineering Jobs and Internships
Cheap Lunch: Tue, 1/24 @ 11 a.m. in Lopata Gallery

New Sector Alliance, Residency in Social Enterprise & Summer Fellows Program
Career Call: Thur, 1/25, 4 p.m. in 159 Umrath Hall

Overland Summer Programs
Meet the Company Event: Fri, 1/26, 11 a.m. in 159 Umrath Hall

St. Jude Medical
Meet the Company Event: Wed, 1/31, 6:30 p.m. in 218 Whitaker

Progressive Insurance, Associate Analysts
Meet the Company Event: Mon, 2/5, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Village

Fund for Public Interest Research, Full-time positions
Meet the Company Event: Mon, 2/5, 6:30 p.m. in Umrath Lounge

MTV, Summer Internship Program
Career Call: Tue, 2/6, 4-5 p.m. in 157 Umrath Hall

INTERNSHIPS

Log on to eRecruiting for more information and to apply for each internship.

Spectrum Healthcare, St. Louis, MO
Application Deadline: 1/31 **Paid**
 Spectrum Healthcare is currently looking for junior- and senior-level interns to assist with recruiting potential candidates for clinical positions across the country.

Macy's Midwest, St. Louis, MO
Application Deadline: 2/1 **Paid**
 Macy's is recruiting for a summer buying/planning internship, which is designed to provide an overview of the buying and planning functions and why specific merchandise is bought and distributed for a premier retail department store.

The Alliance / TDEG, St. Louis, MO
Application Deadline: 2/2 **Credit**
 The Alliance Management Group is a sports and entertainment management company. They are looking for spring semester interns who are interested in assisting in the development of artist marketing plans, script and music reviews, attending music listening forums, and general office management.

Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, WI, various other cities
Application Deadline: 1/31 **Paid**
 Miller Brewing Company is recruiting for Sales Management/Marketing Interns and Information System Interns for its summer program. You will have the opportunity to work on real projects while learning the ins and outs of Miller's business. You must be 21 or older to participate.

UPCOMING JOB DEADLINES

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McMaster-Carr, Chicago, IL
Application Deadline: 2/2
 McMaster-Carr inventories and sells nearly half of a million industrial supplies (think nuts and bolts) to major manufacturers, research organizations, construction sites, movie sets, and everyone in between. Your initial assignment will provide you with exposure to company operations and will include participation in projects that address critical business issues.

MIT Lincoln Labs, Lexington, MA
Application Deadline: 2/8
 The work at MIT Lincoln Laboratory involves a wide array of disciplines as the investigation into one question can expand into more questions and ultimately complex answers. Lincoln Laboratory staff work at the cutting edge of technology. They primarily seek individuals pursuing a BS, MS or PhD in Electrical Engineering, Physics, Computer Science and Mathematics.

ESD, Chicago, IL
Application Deadline: 2/8
 ESD is the Midwest's largest mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and communication technology engineering consulting firm. An entry-level engineer at ESD will have the opportunity to work on a variety of high-profile projects with diversity unmatched by other firms.

Steve & Barry's University Sportswear, Port Washington, NY
Application Deadline: 2/12
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EVALS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

to look at what classes are good and what professors to take. Petok also looks at them when deciding on classes.

Biggs emphasized the importance of engaging faculty when doing the course evaluations, as the course evaluations are looked at when they come up for tenure.

As far as the future for course evaluations, "we have a few things in the works,"

said Biggs. "It has the potential to be more entertaining."

Biggs explained that he has been working with students in terms of improving the "surprise" at the end of the course evaluations.

Biggs is talking with the senate and regularly working with students.

"It's a student administration rather than just administrative of a student arm."

STUDENT LIFE

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Job Listings

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NATIONAL Oscar nominations released

The Academy Award nominees are out and there are several things of note. The highly acclaimed "Dreamgirls," while receiving eight nominations, is not up for best picture or best director. The movie "Babel" earned seven nominations, and Meryl Streep received her 14th career nomination for "The Devil Wears Prada," a record for an actor/actress. Up for best picture are "Babel," "The Queen," "The Departed," "Letters from two Jims" and "Little Miss Sunshine." Also, Sacha Baron Cohen's "Borat" was only nominated for adapted screenplay despite doing much better at the Golden Globes. AIB will air the Oscars live on Feb. 25 from Hollywood's Kodak Theater.



"Dreamgirls" was nominated for eight Oscars. Noticeably absent, however, is a nomination for Best Picture.

Decades-old baby found in storage locker

A Delroy Beach, Fla., couple's daughter discovered a partially mummified baby, possibly from the 1950s, wrapped in newspaper in a self-storage unit. Police spokesman Officer Jeff Messer said the woman found the baby, who could only be identified by sex, in a suitcase within a suitcase in the locker. The body is being sent to a forensic anthropologist to determine the cause of death and whether the child was born alive. Investigators say the baby was wrapped in the Jan. 9, 1957 edition of the Daily Times believed to be from New Jersey or New York. The woman found the body after going to check the contents of the locker, which would be accessioned off due to the rent not being paid.

POLICE BEAT

Thursday, Jan. 16

12:13 p.m. LOST ARTICLE—WOHL CENTER—Student lost a package in Wohl Center between Jan. 11 at 5 p.m. and Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. Disposition: Pending.

3:45 p.m. LARCENY—THEFT—ELIOT HOUSE—Stolen student ID card was used to purchase food items between Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. by person(s) unknown. Loss of value: \$50. Disposition: Pending.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

8:18 a.m. PROPERTY DAM-

AGE—UMBATH HALL—Plastic lock box was forced open between Jan. 15 at 1 p.m. and Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. Nothing was found missing. Disposition: Pending.

Thursday, Jan. 18

7:42 a.m. AUTO ACCIDENT—PARKING LOT #58—Complainant reports her car was struck by person(s) unknown while parked on lot # 58 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 17. Minor damage to reporter's car. Disposition: Pending.

Standards for "the pill" being re-considered

The FDA is deciding whether to raise standards for birth control drugs which may not be as effective at preventing pregnancy as those 10 years ago. It says that at times, newer drugs fail twice as often as older ones, probably because the manufacturers are using lower doses of ovulation-stopping hormones. More than 60 percent of U.S. women between ages 15 and 44 use contraception, with 11.6 million using birth control pills, according to a 2005 survey by the Guttmacher Institute. While older drugs may be more effective, the National Women's Health Network says they also carry a higher risk of blood clots and cardiovascular problems. The FDA will talk to its reproductive drugs panel before announcing its decision.

Global warming officially here, report says

A global scientific report, nicknamed the "smoking gun," is stating that man-caused global warming has arrived, as noticed by the air, water and melting ice. To be released on Feb. 2, the 1,600-page report has "compelling" evidence that human actions have affected global climate, according to the authors. They say an "explosion of new data" shows that temperatures over the past 30 years are the highest they have been in thousands of years, citing Greenland's melting ice caps and rising sea levels. The second part of the report to be released in April will elaborate on how the change is affecting health, species, and engineering and food production.

UNIVERSITY

Assembly Series begins today

Washington University professor David Lawton will kick off this semester's Assembly Series with his "Burning to Read" talk about books and censorship. He will be focusing on Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," indicating the temperature at which book paper burns. The 1953 science-fiction novel came out in the post-World War II era with Nazi and Soviet oppression still recent in our memories. The book is also the subject of the St. Louis Big Read project, often called the "nation's largest book club." Lawton's talk is at 11 a.m. in Graham Chapel and is free to the public.

Saturday, Jan. 20

10:26 a.m. AUTO ACCIDENT—SNOWWAY GARAGE—Delivery truck struck a vehicle causing minor damage. No injuries. Disposition: Cleared.

Sunday, Jan. 21

2:40 a.m. LARCENY—THEFT—GARGOYLE—Complainant reported the theft of a camera and student ID from her jacket while attending a party in the Gargoyle. Time of occurrence: between Jan. 20 at 11 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 1 a.m. Disposition: Unfounded, items were turned in.

Monday, Jan. 22

8:18 a.m. AUTO ACCIDENT—PARKING LOT #58—Staff member reported her vehicle was damaged while parked in Lot # 3 on Jan. 19 between 8 a.m. and 4:20 p.m. Disposition: Pending.

9:46 p.m. LARCENY—THEFT—ATHLETIC COMPLEX—Complainant reported a laptop stolen during the Activities Fair in the Athletic Complex. Time of occurrence: Jan. 22 between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Disposition: Pending.

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SPORTS

For Syvertsen, stats don't tell the whole story

❖ Sophomore guard has loyal following on and off the court

BY ANDREI BERMAN
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Division III athletes, in general, but those at Washington University in particular, are seldom revered by their fellow students—at least not on the basis of their athletic prowess alone. Crowds at sporting events are generally sparse; even in the most popular sports, a gathering of a few hundred is considered well above average.

That trend of tepid support and sub-par attendance numbers will likely not be

the case for the remainder of the men's basketball season. For at least a short while, Mort Zuckerman's U.S. News & World Report rankings are taking a backseat to another poll involving Wash. U., albeit a slightly more obscure one: the DIIIHoops.com Top 25 poll. If the rowdy and vocal nature of the student crowd on hand at last Friday evening's victory is any indication of things to come, the now 10th-ranked Wash. U. men's hoop squad will remain a topic of undergraduate chatter for weeks to come.

As with any successful squad, this year's men's basketball team has a number of fan favorites. But for at least one male hoopsster, it didn't take a 14-1 start to develop a group of dedicated fans. In fact, sophomore guard Phil Syvertsen has been a hit with Bears fans since the first day he donned a Wash. U. uniform. While the rise of Syvertsen's fan base is likely a byproduct of the team's on-the-court success, the core of his supporters originated the moment they discovered that the suburban Chicago product was on the roster.

Syvertsen estimates that his informal fan club consists of 10 to 15 friends, most of whom he met on his freshman floor. But from the site and sound of it, almost anyone who watches Wash. U. basketball would say Syvertsen is understating the actual total of "Phil fanatics."

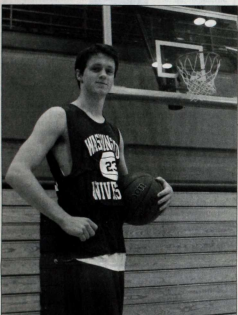
When Syvertsen arrived on the Danforth Campus, he made a conscious effort to immerse himself in the fabric of the Wash. U. culture, choosing not to limit himself solely to athletics. While many athletes choose to live with fellow rookies during their first season of collegiate athletics, Syvertsen deliberately opted to live with someone he wouldn't be spending time with on the hardwood. For his freshman roommate on Umrath Hall's third floor, Zachary Freedman, a self-proclaimed "huge basketball fan," supporting his friend on the court was never even a question.

"People are starting to come to games now since they're doing so well," said Freedman of the team. "We've been going since the beginning."

Syvertsen conjectured that his fan support probably has a lot to do with his off-the-court style and his



Phil (center) and his teammates run sprints to warm up at the beginning of practice on Tuesday, Jan. 23.



Sophomore Phil Syvertsen, a shooting guard, has become a fixture of the men's hoops team. He typically draws his own personal following of 10 to 15 fans to each Bears basketball game.

decision to explore multiple social options: "In general, I'm pretty easy going. I know people don't come here to watch basketball games and not everyone at this school is super interested in basketball. I realize there's a lot of other things going on at this school. I'd be involved."

Syvertsen, 20, is enrolled in the competitive School of Architecture and says that those affiliated with the architecture program have been some of his most dedicated devotees at home games. Syvertsen's father, a Georgetown graduate, is an architect in the Chicago area. His mother is a French teacher.

Each time the reserve shooting guard checks into a game at the Field House, a group of Syvertsen loyalists, the majority of whom lived in Umrath as well, instinctaneously rise to their feet, often leading the boy-faced guard to crack what has become his signature grin. The passion for their freshman floor-mate may be a tad ironic: the group is

presumably self-aware that many of its "We want Phil" chants will go unanswered by Coach Mark Edwards. Nonetheless, the fans hold up a shoddily constructed sign at each stoppage in play that bares the acronym of the famed sports TV station "ESPN" down the sides, with the words "Edwards, Sub Phil-in' Now" etched across the construction paper in inelegant and hardly legible handwriting.

Syvertsen is the first to admit that he is a role player. He is not a dominant offensive big man like junior Troy Ruths and he doesn't lead the conference in assists like fellow sophomore and suitemate Sean Wallis. His stats are modest; he averages just over a basket a game in just under 10 minutes of action.

But on a squad where the chemistry among teammates is palpable, Syvertsen fits in perfectly. A hard-nosed defender who brings an unrelenting amount of hustle off the bench, his game is that of the consummate team player and he suspects that might be the reason he is appreciated by Bears fans.

"The Wash. U. basketball fan is a pretty smart fan," said Syvertsen. "I might not be filling the stat sheet the way Troy Ruths or some of the other players might be doing, but I think the fans might appreciate the details of the game that I focus on when I'm out there."

His former Umrath roommate agreed: "He does a lot more than the traditional stat book would suggest," said Freedman, who joked that "While most players have traditional stats like points and rebounds, he does a lot more, like a missed basket that caroms off another player. It's a 'miss-assist.'"

Syvertsen is not unused to fan support. The Evanston, Ill. native is a graduate of Loyola Academy, a private

school in the Chicago area and a perennial powerhouse in the world of Illinois high school basketball. While at the large Jesuit high school, Syvertsen was a three-year varsity standout for the Ramblers who routinely drew huge crowds of fans.

The fans at Loyola may not always have attended the games to see the lanky three-point threat Syvertsen, however. Both of Michael Jordan's sons currently attend the school and Syvertsen was on the same team with #23's oldest boy, Jeffrey.

"Definitely with Michael Jordan in the stands, I wasn't focused," Syvertsen joked. "My senior year, Jeffrey Jordan was a sophomore playing varsity and Michael Jordan probably only missed three or four games all year."

Coming from a dominant high school allowed Syvertsen the opportunity to play in front of numerous college coaches, many of whom were looking at current Notre Dame star Colm Falls. Syvertsen briefly mulled the option of walking-on to the roster of Division I Colgate University in upstate New York, but ultimately opted for the closer confines of Wash. U. He was also recruited by the University of Chicago, a conference rival.

But for Syvertsen, it's never been about crowds or exposure. Although he is greatly appreciative of the individual support he routinely receives and although he appreciates the larger crowds this season as "awesome," the second-year scrapper is quick to note that he didn't come to Wash. U. for a big-time basketball experience, nor did he play high school ball because of the recognition it granted him.

"I played [in high school] because I have a lot of fun playing basketball and I still play because I have a lot of fun."

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tcroner@westu.edu

To ensure that we have time to fully evaluate your submissions, guest columns should be e-mailed to the guest editor's address or 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

St. Keep Gargoye open to all

Mississippi Nights, a local concert venue, shut its doors after one final jam session last Friday night. According to the Riverfront Times, Nirvana played their only St. Louis show at Mississippi Nights, and many other high-profile bands have also played there, from the Police to the Dead Kennedys. Just two days before this, Student Life reported that the Student Union may enact a policy barring local St. Louisans under the age of 18 from attending concerts at the Gargoye, and a funding cut may be next ("Gargoye lousy to bar minors from concerts," Jan. 17, 2006). Putting such a policy in place would be a huge mistake, as the Gargoye has been able to draw large crowds that include many University students in the past. With better promotion, it may very well be able to continue drawing students into the Gargoye in the future, as well as being an increasingly important part of the St. Louis community.

With the closing of Mis-

issippi Nights, there are even fewer places to see indie shows in St. Louis. The Creepy Crawl remains a viable option, but it is not easy to get to for many Wash. U. students. The Pageant is easy to get to for nearly all students, but does not have many indie shows. These shows are also expensive. This is where the Gargoye becomes a big asset for Wash. U. students. Students do not have any problem getting there as it is on campus, and cheap, if not free. And for the last academic year, Wash. U. students took advantage of the Gargoye. Concerts featuring Matt Nathanson and Of Montreal, among others, sold out, with many Wash. U. students in attendance. If a funding cut is in the Gargoye's future, the Gargoye may not be able to afford acts of such magnitude, and if local high school students were not allowed to attend, another source of revenue for the Gargoye would be lost.

Furthermore, allowing minors to attend shows at the Gargoye would help

improve Wash. U.'s relationship with the community. The town-gown relationship between Wash. U. and the surrounding area is notoriously strained. Preventing local kids from seeing a concert due to their age would alienate the local community even more. Enacting a no-minors policy would also imply that Wash. U. thinks its students are superior to other residents of St. Louis by saying that St. Louisians under 18 who don't go to Wash. U. are likely to cause more problems than Wash. U. students, an insult to the rest of the community. Community relations have been bad enough; barring minors from the Gargoye would just make things worse between the University and the community.

Just because the proposition to bar minors from the Gargoye is misguided does not mean that the Gargoye should be commended for its work last semester. The student attendance at shows was much lower than in years past, prompting the discussion to bar minors.

This was due to a lack of promotion on the Gargoye's part. As members of the Gargoye have readily admitted, promotion was a serious problem. There needs to be more than just Facebook advertising when trying to promote their concerts. One possibility could be to advertise on the underpass. This would let students who live on the South 40 see what's coming up at the Gargoye on their way to and from classes. Either way, the Gargoye's promotion needs to improve to help bring in students and local kids who are under 18.

In the 2003-2004 school year, the Gargoye brought the Killers to campus as an opening act for Stellanarr. This was before the Killers became one of the biggest bands in the world. If the Gargoye loses funding, whether from lost revenue from minors or a cut in funding from Student Union, such a show may not happen again. It could get to the point where minors would not even want to come, if they were allowed.

A lesson from the Roe v. Wade anniversary

Two things happened this past Monday to mark the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court case which made abortion a constitutional right. The first is that tens of thousands of pro-choice and pro-life activists descended on Washington, D.C. to rally for their respective causes. The second was Bishop Gene Fink, the head of my Catholic diocese, was there to participate in the annual March for Life. I know this because he has done so for more than 20 years. And he's never alone, either. This year he recruited four busloads of pro-life Catholics from my diocese to join him. And, as you would expect, it's not a harmonious experience. A grueling 22-hour bus ride is rewarded with a spot right in the middle of a scene at Capitol Hill filled with heated arguments. It's not an unusually unpleasant atmosphere. Inevitably the worst aspects of the pro-choice and pro-life movements are broadcasted. Plenty of pro-life protesters hold up pictures of gruesome abortion procedures. And pro-choice activists respond in turn by holding up wire hangers.

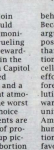
Overall, so many of the arguments carried by each side are reasonable and some of them aren't. Yet one of the protest slogans that always pops up on the pro-choice side is "keep your zozaries off my ovaries" or "keep your church out of my crotch." The motivation for these statements is apparent: Christianity, including the Catholic and Evangelical Protestant variations, is heavily infused into the pro-life movement. But when trying to tie the two together, pro-choice activists commonly argue that much of the pro-life movement is based on rigid dogma. One student in the Arizona State student newspaper recently remarked that the pro-life crowd is compelled by "religious ideology" to argue that there are human beings. This kind of argument may seem as less superficially true but it's also a mistake to believe that it is. If you were to examine the defining factor that handed George W. Bush the 2004 presidential election, you would inevitably hear about "values voters." Values voters are the 22 percent of American voters who cited "moral values" as the most influential issue affecting their votes for president. They were typically Evangelical Protestants or Catholics who attended church at least once a week. They supported a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion, they believed that federal funding for embryonic stem cell research should be banned. And, of course, they overwhelmingly felt that Roe v. Wade should be overturned. Not surprisingly, 80 percent of these values voters cast their ballot for President Bush.

But there is more to the story. George W. Bush certainly campaigned actively

for the religious vote. Yet a third of Evangelical Protestants and nearly half of all Catholics still voted for John Kerry. This happened despite the fact that Kerry's positions on moral issues often conflicted directly with the pro-life movement. And in fact, a quarter voted for Kerry, not knowing full well that he was a pro-choice politician.

It's interesting enough, the official newspaper of my diocese, the Catholic Weekly, noticed this abnormality and sought to explain it. Why didn't every pro-life voter throw their support behind George W. Bush? Because, as Catholic argued, a "genuine pro-life position" stands for more than opposition to abortion and embryonic stem cell research. It supports efforts to save "life-giving forests" by reducing pollution and combating global warming. It advocates universal health care for all Americans. It calls for more humanitarian intervention in Darfur. It strongly favors "programs to benefit

Nathan Everly



"It is a worldview that has as much of a home within the secular tradition as it does with the 'values voters' who cast their lot with George W. Bush."

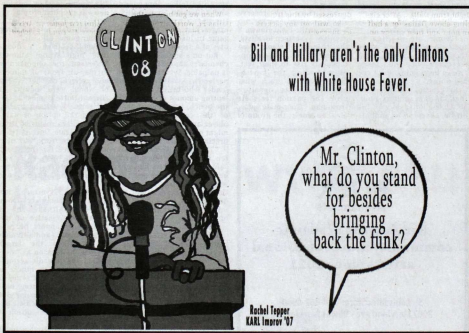
the disadvantaged over tax breaks for the wealthy." It also strongly opposes the war in Iraq. This is probably why nearly half of Catholics voters supported for John Kerry despite warnings from Catholic officials like Archbishop Charles Chaput that anyone who did so would be "cooperating in evil."

When writing about why he was pro-life, Bishop Robert Finn rarely mentioned religion. Instead, he alluded to being "a voice for people who have no voice" and defending the helpless. That is something that goes beyond religion. It is a worldview that has as much of a home within the secular tradition as it does with the "values voters" who cast their lot with George W. Bush. When the Democratic Party tries to provide healthcare for the poor, it seeks to protect the helpless.

You may not agree with the aims of the March for Life rally (I don't). But many of the pro-life protesters who attended were acting on an honest conviction that the unborn are in need of our protection. You may think they're wrong, but at least you can see where they're coming from. Sometimes that gets lost in a protest slogan.

Nathan is a junior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum editor. He can be reached via email at forum@studlife.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberal arts preps students for jobs

Dear Editor:

Tom Butcher, an aspiring liberal arts major, recently wrote about the difference between "practical" majors like business, economics, and science and majors in the liberal arts, which are often considered impractical ("The Hard Truth: Your Jobless Major," Jan. 22, 2006). Butcher is working in a long tradition here, because the very name of the liberal arts is derived from the fact that studying

philosophy, history and literature was the kind of domain of a wealthy elite that did not have to dirty its hands with more banal activities. However, the nature of work has changed as has the American economy as a whole; employers are no longer looking for engineers and economic analysts, but people who can argue, learn, and think for themselves. The model employee is not someone who can make specific mathematical calculations,

but someone who can understand the logic behind a proposal, write and improve it. Work is increasingly centered around people and ideas, the very things that liberal arts majors study with interest. Thus, while I am happy that Butcher would study the humanities for their own sake, he need not worry if such study will be a detriment to his career. I can specify a number of reasons the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, the major

that Butcher placed on the bottom of his scale of employability. As a recent graduate of this program, I can assure Butcher that employers were extremely impressed by the program's intellectual rigor and focus on research. A liberal arts major is a fine foundation not only for beginning a career, but also for leading a thoughtful and inquisitive life.

—Austin Thompson
Class of 2006

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Why can't we just say no to a rebel?

A lot of times I don't feel like I can make any sort of difference that matters. I wonder if I'm selling out as I begin to realistically change my goals from those that fit with an ideologically based future in which I would use my education to take up the perpetual fight for justice to just finding a career that will help me survive. I don't know whether I've become practical or selfish or if the problem is more widespread than my own brain and moral reasoning.

In 1970, University students burned down the campus in protest of the Vietnam War. These students went as far as to throw

rocks at the firefighters who came to put out the flames. Putting aside the certainly debatable issue of whether or not burning down the ROTC was the best way to protest the war, I have a respect for these students because they were the initiative to get together and take a risk to ensure for something they believed in, and they ensured their voices were heard.

There are things going on in our country that are as deeply unsettling as the issues in the 1970s, but our reactions are calm. Earlier this month, when Bush announced his

plan to send over 20,000 additional troops to Iraq, we primarily constrained our frustration or appreciation to our living rooms. It doesn't matter how strongly we disagree with something and how important making a statement on the issue might be, let's face it, none of us are going to burn down buildings.

The problem isn't that we won't engage in destroying property, maybe it's good that we wouldn't even consider engaging in that type of activity. But it does seem to be a problem that none of us really seems to have the ability,

the leadership skills, the courage, or the passion to do much of anything about anything. Or that any sort of activism in any shape or form is entirely

"We're all trained to work inside the system, and that's what we do"

impractical within the context of today's world. We're all trained to work inside the system, and that's what we do. I see it in my everyday life, yet it's not something that I seem to be able to break, despite my recognition that breaking through it is the only way to ever really change it.

One of the best examples of this mentality comes from this paper's editorial board, of which I am a member. We sit down weekly and don't consider commenting on national issues because we have no hope of making a difference, but even when we attempt to voice an opinion about local, University issues, we still maintain little hope as we are considered. We have no power, and I don't mean as a paper, but I mean as a student body and also as a generation. Today, burning down a building to gain some sort of voice is stupid. For whatever reason, activist methods of the late '60s would likely be ineffective today. Maybe this is because we all work within

the greater system. Maybe it's because the role of authority is more prominent in our lives than it was in the past. Maybe we just haven't figured out how to have a reaching impact within this era. Maybe it's because we've collectively lost that passion required to make actual sacrifices for the ideological. I'm not sure what the cause is, but the effect is certain. We have no real role in the decision making process, even when the decisions specifically affect people our age or affect us directly as students at this University.

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

Directly to the home or do we race like home

BY ALVIN SILA
STAFF COLUMNIST

For dedicated followers of my columns here in the campus, the life we expect to read something with a point or purpose. I'm apologizing in advance. Unfortunately, I won't be arguing for the naming of a new building after Stephen Colbert or ranting against car manufacturers who drive history. Instead, I've decided to use my space on this page to tell a personal story.

Over winter break, I went on a cruise to the Bahamas with two of my friends from high school. On Friday, Jan. 12 at 5:30 a.m., the ship docked in Miami and the vacation was over. For some unknown and inconvenient reason, we were forced to wake up and get off of the ship when it docked and we arrived at the Miami airport at 9 a.m. Our flight out of Miami was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and we had to change planes at Dallas-Ft. Worth. I wasn't scheduled to arrive in St. Louis until 11:30 p.m., which was a long way away. We decided to try and get a standby on one of the many

flights to Dallas that day. After over an hour of standing in lines in the typically hectic Miami airport, we finally arrived at the gate for the first flight to Dallas. We crossed our fingers as the names for standby were about to be read. The woman working the computer told us she had room for only one standby and called one of my friends to the gate. We were faced with a dilemma. Should one person ditch the group in order to get home earlier? We ultimately decided yes, and one of my friends took the flight and left two of us behind. My friend and I waited for the next flight to Dallas at 3 p.m. We were numbers five and six on the standby list and again waited to hear our names be called. After numbers 1 through four were called, we were told that the plane was full and the doors were closed. We walked to the opposite terminal to try and catch the next flight out of Dallas. We were then first on the flight to Dallas, so we figured we were in good shape. After waiting in anticipation, we were told that the flight was completely full and there would be no standbys



on the flight.

We spent the rest of the day in the Miami airport eating \$8 turkey sandwiches that could have been made of rubber. At 4:30 p.m., we finally boarded our flight to Dallas and hoped that the pilot had predicted the storm in St. Louis wouldn't affect our flight from Dallas. After circling above Dallas for a half an hour and then sitting on the tarmac for another half hour, we arrived in Dallas to find that, as we feared, the

other "distressed passengers" a single minute arrived and by sheer luck, we were able to fly our way inside. After a 20-minute ride, we arrived at the Clarion with hundreds of other distressed passengers and we ended to check in. After midnight, we finally made it to our room, but we crashed food. Because food on flights is so overrated, we had "nominal food" now, we hadn't eaten anything since those delicious turkey sandwiches. We saw a McDonald's and decided to go to it in the rain. It was a 24-hour McDonald's, but only the drive-thru was open. We stood in line with the cars. When we were ready to order, we were told that "for security reasons" McDonald's didn't allow walk-up orders. I guess it's easier to get away on foot than by car. (In this post Sept. 11 world, you can never be too safe.) We jogged back to the hotel, bought water and candy at the hotel's gift shop, and went to sleep.

When we got back to the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport early the next morning, we were told that the first earlier flights to St. Louis had been cancelled due to the weather

and the 1:30 p.m. flight had been cancelled as well. We expected ours to be cancelled too, but miraculously, our flight was the only one to St. Louis to leave that day. Our obstacles didn't end there, though. We were told to prepare for takeoff but sat on the runway instead. After 20 minutes, the pilot announced that a piece of concrete was on the runway and we had to move to a runway on the other side of the airport. At this point, we could do nothing but just laugh. Eventually, the plane took off and finally at 3 p.m. on Saturday, we landed in St. Louis. (In case you're wondering, our friend who made the first standby flight arrived in St. Louis at 5 p.m. on Friday. I kissed the ground after I stepped off of the plane, but it was funny; after five minutes of standing in the weather and the realization that class was starting in a few days, I wished that I had never made it home.)

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Learning the lessons

BY ALANA BURMAN
STAFF COLUMNIST

I don't really like going home. I love to go, my friends love to come with my dog, but I am finding less and less drawing me back to the microcosm of my youth each time I return there are fewer old friends I am excited to run into and fewer landmarks in my hometown that I am compelled to see. I am also fed up with generic conversations. For every phrase in life, I have been overheard in my generic conversations; I'm sure most of you have as well. In high school, the only thing acquaintances and strangers will ask you about is where you are applying to college. When you go home

from college people ask you about your major, the groups you are in, and for this school especially, how life is in either your dorm or in your hometown. After vacation from college, we even come back here to more generic conversations, the most recent about break. I've responded to "how was your break" over 100 times in the last week. I noticed something very important about how it answered defines the very unique place I am in life right now: "I had a good time, but I wanted to be back."

Perhaps it is because as I got older I became better friends with people outside my hometown, or perhaps it is because I never felt particularly connected to Park City, Utah in the first place.

Nevertheless, I don't feel "at home" at home anymore. I have realized that the people I want to talk to are at Wash. U., the experiences I want to have are at Wash. U., and the place I feel I belong most is at Wash. U. Although as a January Student I do not have the typical rite of passage of coming to college, moving into a freshman hall in autumn, meeting my roommates and the works. I felt pointedly when my mom and I stepped onto the flight to St. Louis that my life would never be the same. I, like many others at this university, led a very sheltered life, and until recently I never had to deal with the responsibility of my own survival. Because I have left that environment, I have been

placed at a crossroads.

Most of us will never live at home again, and if we do, it will not be the same as it was when we left. We will not be able to rely on our parents to keep us safe and comfortable all the time. We have to start to do everything for ourselves, becoming more responsible and more independent. Although these are the stereotypical things we hear in high school graduation speeches and in college brochures, I am realizing they are true. When my gas bill was out of control (beware of old, not very well insulated apartments...), but I still needed a certain amount of heat to survive, I couldn't go turning to my dad when no one at the gas company was listening to me. I had to

handle it myself. When I'm sick and feel like I am the only person in the world who has ever gotten through this much pain, I can tell my mom, but even then, in the end I will need to take care of myself and do what needs to be done to am well enough to live my life.

The point is, I am done with home, because I can't grow there anymore. I learned in Intro to Human Evolution last semester that the most important human brain development takes place in the uterus because it is the safest place to do such important work, and that's what childhood homes are like. We live with our caretakers, letting them guide us in growing and learning until we are ready to handle it ourselves. That

is what college is for a number of us. We thrive in this environment because we are in charge of our own flourishing. It fits best because I can choose life on my own terms. Here, I pursue who I am, and that community is similar, lost, yet passionate searchers is what makes me see Wash. U. as home.

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Learning the lessons we are committing genocide

BY CHRISTIAN SHERDEN
STAFF COLUMNIST

This is partly for the reason of my attitude perspective on life in the United States that I decided to study abroad and I would like to share my realizations as I see them from my desk here in London.

I was always taught that the purpose of studying history and collecting knowledge is to learn from the mistakes of our past to make a better future. If hindsight is perfect because it allows us to step away from the present and reflect upon a situation seeing the cause and effect of each step of a process. Clearly this is easier said than done, as we are often repeating historical instances of inhuman behavior so egregiously awful that they should never be replicated, though they often are.

I want all of you to step back and reflect on our current position in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and allow ourselves to understand that by doing and saying nothing, we are all participating in genocide.

This war, which started in March 2003, has dragged on for five and a half years after declared "victory." It is hard to get a grasp on how long this war has really gone overlooked because they are so similar and frequent. However, while most of us were on vacation this past month, fighting escalated. On Jan. 10, 2007, there was a two-mile stretch of traffic streets of downtown Baghdad involving almost 1,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops. According to CNN, about 500 Iraqi soldiers and 400 U.S. troops took part in the battle along a two-mile stretch of traffic Street (downtown Baghdad). This is definitely some of the

worst fighting that we have encountered in the last four years and it paints a startling picture of how vicious this war is actually is.

This CNN article goes on to describe the insurgent forces as "a sophisticated enemy" and "highly organized operation." Now this lengthy conflagration of gunfire is just the leading story and I hope you know you can't forget the daily car bombings, random ambushes and a constantly growing community of domestic state involved. We forget about the war while the fighting intensifies.

What our political response to these new developments? In a move opposed by two-thirds of Americans, Bush is sending a new batch of more than 20,000 U.S. troops to, as CNN reported, "help the embattled government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki secure Bag-

dad." 20,000 troops with guns in downtown Baghdad is a significant force and it will have a large impact in the enormous power struggle.

"The Holocaust, Apartheid, The Trail of Tears are all the same concept, just presented differently."

but it is not a move that we should all vehemently oppose.

It is important to look at the wording used to describe the conflict. The word "insurgent" is thrown around by news sources to describe those opposing the development of a democratic state in Iraq, saying that we are fighting the "insurgency" in the

definition of a euphemism; it is almost synonymous with the phrase "bad guys." Using the word insurgent makes these people faceless and evil when the word for whom we are fighting is Sunni. Though the insurgency is a fairly diverse group of people opposing the invasion of their country, Sunni comprise a large majority of the "insurgents."

Why do news broadcasts call them insurgents? Because when you call them insurgents, those 20,000 soldiers are merely doing their duty to promote freedom and democracy in Iraq. However, when you have no exit strategy, and you send 20,000 armed men to kill all of the Sunnis in Iraq so that there will soon no longer be an opposition, it is called genocide.

When I look at the war in this light it terrifies me. We have learned nothing and

we are doing it all again. The Holocaust, Apartheid, The Trail of Tears are all the same concept, just presented differently. If we haven't learned from these atrocities then studying them in school becomes reduced to morbid fascination.

We cannot let this happen. By doing and saying nothing we are all helping President Bush systematically kill a specific group of American youth that don't deserve "people who are called the first people no WMDs, remember". The first step towards opposing this region of terror is spreading awareness. We all need to realize that this is very real and that the real world for it is genocide. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise, because they will undoubtedly try.

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ALBI IN REVIEW

Montreal's new music keeps band fresh, fun

BY DAVID KAMINSKY
CADENZA EDITOR

Of Montreal might not be your favorite band, but there's a pretty strong argument that they should be. They're fun, thematically ridiculous, lyrically creative and both a hell of a lot of fun to listen to on CD and to hear live. One of the best things about them is that they constantly release new material. Whether it be an entirely new album, one of remixes or one of material from back when they were young (although less singer Kevin Barnes claims on their last album, "The Sunlandic Twins," that he "has never written a song as a child"), there is almost always some new Of Montreal to listen to.

"Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?" is an album of entirely new material, and with it, the band continues to move in the direction that their past two albums, "Satanic Panic in the Attic" and "The Sunlandic Twins," were taking them. The songs are catchy, filled with smooth synth lines and bumping bass beats. Like the others, their lyrics are utterly ridiculous, especially because of the correlation with which they're sung and the feel of the music behind them. I can't help but wonder how the hell they make it work, but since it's so damn good I'm not going to complain.

"Suffer for Fashion" is upbeat with great synth and drum lines pushing the song along. The fun and dancy music puts an upbeat spin on lyrics that could be interpreted in a much gloomier way. Lead vocalist Kevin Barnes sings, "If we've got to burn, our let's do it together / let's all melt down together" in a way that proclaims he at least takes comfort in the togetherness.

"Cato as a Pun" on the other hand, has a dissonant synth line with a slower tempo that fits the more depressing nature of the lyrics. The climax of the song is when Barnes sings, "I guess you just want to shave your head, have a drink and be left alone." This is then followed by a long pause and Barnes speaking back, "Is that too much to ask?" It's nothing short of heart-wrenchingly beautiful.

Finally, "She's a Receptor" shows Of Montreal in their most hilariously form. The song begins with a dueling guitar between Barnes and music like breathing. It then breaks into a disco-like drum/bass beat with gurgling guitars playing. Barnes sings, "My my my busted me like a robot, strike me with your riding crop, I'm forever gone, I'll bite tomorrow but tonight like success knows no shame." Barnes sings with such fervor that the song can't help but chuckle and is then continue singing along with that same sense of earnestness.

The rest of the album is just as fantastic. "The Past is a Grotesque Animal" runs at almost 12 minutes and "Faberge Falls for Shuggie" shows off Barnes' squeaky falsetto. "We Were the Mutants Again With Leaflike" brings a lot of the musical themes back together in one song to close the album.

Overall, Of Montreal's latest effort is just as wonderful as their previous. All we can do now is wait for their next release and mourn the death of Mississippi Nights, which has supposedly to host them here in February. That concert will now be occurring in Springfield, Mo. Yes, I'll repeat that: Springfield, Mo.

Of Montreal
Hissing Fauna, Are you the Destroyer?

Rating: ★★★★★

Tracks to download: "Suffer for Fashion," "Cato as a Pun," "She's a Receptor"

For fans of: The Shins and New Pornographers

SOPHOMORE SLUMP



THE REVIEW

'Volver' recycles Almodóvar's clichés

BY DANIEL P. REUSSER
CADENZA REPORTER

"Volver" is a decent film relative to typical releases, but having watched all 16 of Pedro Almodóvar's features, I can only view his newest film as a disappointment. However, I think of it for some people it will be a highly likable film.

The title is the Spanish infinitive meaning "to return," and as usual, Almodóvar reaches into his past cinematic repertoire to revisit key, personal themes. Again using his familiar stock of actors, he places them in a new setting with a plot inspired from a line in "La flor de mi secreto" ("The Flower of My Secret").

The lives of Raimunda (Penélope Cruz), her sister Sole (Lola Dueñas) and Raimunda's daughter Paula (Yohana Cobo) are upset when the sisters' elderly aunt, Tia Paula (Chus Lampreave), dies and they are called back to their home village for the funeral.

Compounding this tragedy, Raimunda's obnoxious husband Emilio (Carlos Blanco) informs young Paula that he is not his biological daughter, and he then proceeds to sexually assault her. Paula kills her father in defense, and Raimunda is left to deal with a body and find economic stability.

Returning home for the funeral alone, Sole has a vision of her mother (Carmen Maura), who supposedly perished in a fire many decades ago. She soon learns from the neighbor, Augustina (Anita Pardo), and other villagers that her mother's ghost had returned to care for Tia Paula and to resolve unfinished business with her daughters.

The story includes themes common to Almodóvar pictures: murder of an unympathetic husband, the strong-

fragile dichotomy of the female character, the taboo presented in a deeply barred secret, the power of female sexuality over man and the complex absurdity of life. Generally, it conforms to that Almodóvar cliché of focusing on desire. At its simplest, the "story" is really about the desire for a supportive family structure, specifically in a compassionate female relationship of mother and daughter.

Despite his return to typical themes, "Volver" is a different sort of Almodóvar film; it is exceptionally melodramatic and sexually explicit. Normally, he takes the themes listed above, particularly female sexuality and passion, and subtly subverts them into something humane.

Unfortunately, this never occurs in "Volver." Instead, the film appears tamed and vapid, as Almodóvar made a film for Hollywood.

For instance, Raimunda's ample chest is flaunted through dialogue and by the camera, but is not utilized fully in plot or theme, leaving it just as vulgar as a typical scene of an "American Pie" film. Almodóvar used the power of female sexuality very

effectively in his past films, such as "Matador," but here it becomes base spectacle.

Worse, the subject of incest is never properly explored. Paula goes through the entire film without any apparent emotional trauma from her attempted rape. This plot device is ripe for investigation, but is only used as a mirror to Raimunda's plot-lines.

I also must note the strong anti-male undertones of the film. Almodóvar has always focused his films on women, but never before has appeared insulting to men. While he has a knack for humanizing the most degenerate of his characters, none of any emotional depth. They are simply the bearers of evil and suffering upon the cast of female characters. Almodóvar seems to do this to highlight the importance of the mother-daughter relationship, but it comes off as an extreme message for women to unite and support one another under the suppression of malevolent men.

Similar to "Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios"

(Women on the edge of a nervous breakdown), I imagine this film will be popular with viewers who enjoy emotional simplicity and/or its empowerment of women over men. It is indeed "heartwarming" in that sugary fashion that many people go for. Obviously that is not my thing, but I can't fault someone else for immensely enjoying it.

There are great things about "Volver." Indeed, even a mediocre film by Almodóvar is preferable to many other options. As always, the vibrant colors, unique humor and fluid montage of his films are magnificent. The acting is incredible (aside from the emotionless performance of Cobo). Lampreave is great fun to watch, and you regret that she isn't in the film longer. There's also the notable return of long-missed Maura, following a time of disagreement that the director and movie experienced.

After 16 films, Almodóvar faces a challenge in avoiding the clichés for which he has become famous. Yet, his past work proves his capability at handling familiar themes and actors in novel stories that still have a profound artistic message. You might like his new, lighter-brand of cinema that I see as frivolous. Personally, I want Almodóvar to keep returning to what he does best: subversive cinema.

Volver
Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Director: Pedro Almodóvar
Starring: Penélope Cruz, Yohana Cobo, Chus Lampreave, Carlos Blanco, Carmen Maura

ALBUM REVIEWS

'Wincing' offers same old Shins' sound

BY DAVID KAMINSKY
MUSIC EDITOR

The Shins are one hell of a weird phenomenon in popular music. When I first played their last album, "Chutes Too Narrow," to a friend three or four years ago, he told me it sounded odd. From what I've seen of my peers (and myself), he's generally right. I've been with bad. However, with "Garden State" the Shins became an "it" band, one of those groups every person who claimed to be young had to know. The next thing that about the Shins' popularity was common to Almodóvar pictures with "Garden State" to such an extent that to introduce a friend to the Shins often meant introducing him to an odd-tasting "Garden State." Lastly, "Garden State" featured songs from their first album, so the masses of American Age boys and girls

who now loved them loved their older material many times without knowing a second album had been released prior to the release of "Garden State."

This brings us up-to-date. The Shins have taken their time crafting their first new material since their rise to stardom and now it has arrived in the form of "Wincing the Night Away," an album so astoundingly mediocre that it's hard to really say anything about. The album suffers no major flaws but has nothing special going for it either. The energy that ran all throughout "Chutes Too Narrow" is missing from "Wincing the Night Away," although the technical prowess remains.

The album starts out on one of its higher points with "Sleeping Lessons," a song that exhibits its best in beginning a perfect example of the Shins' "old" sound. More than anything,

it has a dreamy feel to it as it builds up to its louder, bouncer finish. Its only problem is that this huge crescendo somehow manages not to evoke any shift in mood.

Another bright spot on the album is the first single, "Phantom Limb," which features a groovy synth / bass line contrasted by softly flowing vocals. The lyrics tell the story of two lesbian girls living in a small town. They keep their relationship quiet because the people of the town wouldn't understand. Lead singer James Mercer shines in this track, as his voice is so light and sweet that it seems to bounce softly along with the music. It's sure to be a hit single.

The problem is that even these bright spots aren't as bright as they should be. While Mercer's voice is in top form, the energy just isn't there. The music doesn't promote any sense of urgency and Mercer sounds bored more than half the time he's singing. There's really nothing terrible about this album, but you're not going to find yourself wanting to listen to it. The Shins will be at the Pantages on Sunday, Feb. 11. Perhaps the live renditions will be more energetic than the recorded ones.

The Shins
Wincing the Night Away

Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Tracks to download: "Sleeping Lessons," "Phantom Limb," "Sea Legs"
For fans of: "Garden State" soundtrack

Supergroup fails to deliver quality music

BY ELIZABETH OCHOA
MUSIC EDITOR

The Good, the Bad and the Queen (GBQ) manages to be both disappointingly and oddly tiresome. This fact is made even more depressing by the fact that GBQ is yet another supergroup. GBQ consists of Damon Albarn of Blur and Gorillaz, Paul Simonon of The Clash, and members of The Verve and Tony Allen, who was once described by Brian Eno as "the greatest drummer who has ever lived" (and who is still alive).

Yet another entry in the long list of anti-war albums, GBQ is

hollow and empty. The lyrics are easily the best part of the album. On "Northern Whales" the words read, "They only see you in a dream / lying at a dark machine / sung on love / your melody." The song is made all that less impressive when Albarn tells you it's about a whale swimming in the Thames. To make matters worse, the main musical component is a synthesized riff which plays with staccato precision throughout the entire song.

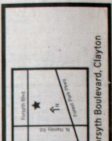
The next track, "Kingdom of Doom," manages a bit better. "Drink all day / cause the country's in a mess / Albarn sings, as an acoustic guitar and piano are forced to participate in what can most accurately be

described as a musical tease. Tracks such as "Nature Sprung" leave the listener upset and confused and unsatisfied. "Today is submarine / setting course to the land under me." Not only are the lyrics themselves perplexing, but the music sounds as if it contains a squeaky door and a whistling bird.

Maybe my expectations were too high. After reading the credentials of each member and listening to my fair share of their work, I was thoroughly upset with what I got out of GBQ. The album itself seems to lack what supergroups promise: music which is at least as good as the sum of the parts. GBQ seemed to have misunder-

The Good, the Bad & The Queen
The Good, the Bad & The Queen

Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Tracks to download: "Kingdom of Doom," "Northern Whales"
For fans of: Blur



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YEAR IN REVIEW ❖ FROM PAGE 10

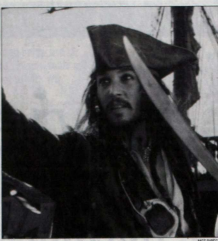
Biggest disappointment

The entire summer movie season

Film critics are notorious for hating anything that large groups of people like, apparently because they tend to think that anything that appeals to everyone must be aiming too low. I try to avoid this kind of pretension whenever possible but found it difficult this summer.

I just didn't like any of the major releases in summer 2006, and I'm generally the type of guy who spends a lot of hot days in the multiplex. The season started out with a flourish, with "Poseidon" and "The Da Vinci Code," the latter of which was actually the larger shipwreck of the two. As a card-carrying comic book geek, I was looking forward to both "X-Men: The Last Stand" and "Superman Returns," but after seeing both I wished that Bryan Singer had stuck with directing the "X" franchise. "Superman" was a well-constructed movie, but was not nearly good enough to match the quality of "Batman Begins" or the potential of a proper sequel to "X2." "Snakes on a Plane" may have been more successful if released earlier in the summer when the Internet hype was still hot, but the cooling buzz led to a cold reception at the box office. "Talladega Nights" had its moments, but ultimately it ran out of gas and provided a lot of ammunition for all the Will Ferrell haters out there. The biggest flop, for me, was actually the biggest financial success of the year. I thought the original "Pirates of the Caribbean" was an incredible amount of fun, but "Dead Man's Chest" limped like it had two peg legs. There was no cohesive story and while I do realize that was only half a movie, it had one-tenth of a normal movie's material and still managed to feel more bloated than a beached Kraken.

Now that my bad feelings and smiles are out of the way, we can look forward to being disappointed once again this year. I am wary of Michael Bay being allowed to direct "Transformers" but will probably



Johnny Depp stars as Captain Jack Sparrow in this summer's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

be first in line at the theater and on the IMDB boards to flame the thing. Spiderman, Captain Jack Sparrow, Shrek and Jason Bourne all have their third film coming out this summer, while Homer Simpson is making his big screen debut. And of course the moment we have all been waiting for: the return of the greatest action hero in R rated movie history, John McClane in "Live Free or Die Hard." Now if that isn't a summer to be disappointed by, I don't know what is.

Worst movie

Ultraviolet

This is almost too obvious of a choice, but I was not as astounded with the badness of any movie this year as much as I was with "Ultraviolet." Rumor has it that the studio forced a PG-13 cut after the film was wrapped and they claim that a lot of important footage was left on the cutting room floor. However the same was true for "King Arthur," and that movie made some cohesive sense. This is just a mess that should have never been unleashed on the public. Crimes Against Humanity: wasting some cool special effects, juxtaposing those next to terrible special effects, revealing halfway through that all of the characters are vampires but then never mentioning it again and showing Milla Jovovich into another garbled, sci-fi stinkpile just because "The 5th Element" was cool.

Most overrated movie

Little Miss Sunshine

I liked "Little Miss Sunshine." It made me laugh and all of the acting was really top notch, especially from Alan Arkin and even from the young Abigail Breslin. I just didn't think it belonged anywhere near the best picture of the year talk. Somehow the Producers Guild gave it their best picture award. It was a good first effort from married director team Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, but the ideas weren't new and the story never really went anywhere (although I do concede that was kind of the point). I'm not so much upset with people who honestly liked this movie, because I'm one of them, but I see the admiration of "Little Miss Sunshine" as a crutch for people who don't want to see that many movies. It's entertaining, sports a great cast and displays four out of five standard indie movie cliches, so people cling to it as if it were a triumph over studio filmmaking that should be applauded for even existing. It just resembles movies like "Sideways" and "Me and You and Everyone We Know" too much to be taken that seriously. I encourage Dayton and Faris to make more movies but I also implore them to keep the leads from going to their heads, because they've got some work to do. Cruel but Hilarious irony: the movie took five years to make, which could have put it out ahead of the movies it seems to emulate, and yet would have prevented them from having the superb Abigail Breslin and Paul Dano.

Movie I really wanted to like and ended up hating

Lady in the Water

I'm a big fan of the director M. Night Shyamalan. He takes a lot of chances with casting and paces his films very slowly, which is a risk in movies today but when used effectively can make the modern audience uncomfortable (in that good way). He has probably used fewer shots in all of his movies than Tony Scott uses in one, yet his movies keep me on the edge of my seat more than any other director working now. Now if we could just get rid of M. Night Shyamalan the writer. I really liked "The Sixth Sense," loved "Unbreakable" and "Signs" scared the crap out of me. But even there, I saw the cracks in the paint with that ridiculous alien water allergy ending. "The Village" was misquaded at best but also misandered because everyone thought it hinged on the twist that came halfway through, when in fact they were just projecting their expectations. So here comes "Lady in the Water," the first non-twist M. Night movie, and I just knew (despite everyone else's predictions) that it was going to be great and all the nay-sayers would have to eat a big helping of crow. Well, I'm eating mine right now because this movie was just plain boring. And that wasn't even the worst of its problems. Crimes Against Humanity: M. Night casting himself as an author whose work may save the world, creating an "adult" fairy tale that lacks a story, failing to realize that just because you are a great director does not mean that we want to watch anything you make up or that you can get away with crap like Madam narfs and tartarics, making a great cast (Jeffrey Wright, Paul Giamatti) and that, making the beautiful Bryce Dallas Howard unappealing.

Movie I really wanted to hate and ended up loving

Dreamgirls

I thought "Chicago" was ridiculously bad, and not just for an Oscar winner either. To me, "Dreamgirls" seemed to be the next installment in a series of failed attempts to modernize the musical and I wanted nothing to do with it. But I submitted to my reviewer code of ethics and went to see it anyway, and was surprised to find something that I had never seen in a musical before: subtlety. Any movie where characters literally vocalize their emotions is going to be somewhat heavy-handed, but "Dreamgirls" made its points about race and the music industry without actually spelling them out in song. Unfortunately for the movie, those songs are what keep "Dreamgirls" from soaring. Despite the unbelievable vocal talents of Jennifer Hudson and Eddie Murphy's charisma, the weak songs vied on Broadway instead of getting back to the streets of Detroit where they belong.

Cruel but Hilarious Irony: Casting Beyoncé as the bland-voiced singer who only gets to be a superstar because white people think she is pretty, allowing Jennifer Hudson to upstage her in every scene they appear in together and yet still giving Beyoncé top billing, allowing Eddie Murphy to



Anika Nisi Rose, Beyoncé Knowles and Jennifer Hudson star in "Dreamgirls."

get past his terrible '80s singing career attempt and yet reminding everyone that "Party All the Time" still exists.

Movie I should hate but have to love

Crank

Because I can't honestly imagine a big screen adaptation of "Grand Theft Auto" coming out any time soon, I have to cling like hell to "Crank." It displays an amazingly competent average man who travels to a future so dumbed-down he is easily the smartest man in the world, as an open door to a universe of night-guns and sky social commentary that never really comes together. It only will forever plague "idiotocracy" through out time, but this one deserves a look, if only for the clip of 2500's most popular show "The Nylbats."

Most asinine best of 2006 pick

Army of Shadow

I'm sure that everyone is right in calling this a masterpiece, and while this debated in the United States in 2006, it originally screened in France in 1969. I'll give movies a one or two year leeway on release year for festival reasons, but naming a movie that came out before "The Godfather" as the best of 2006 is just a cheap way to avoid making a choice for best picture (something I would never do).

My asinine best of 2006 pick

The Prestige

While I didn't pick any absolute "best" movie of the year, I put this on the list mostly due to my opinion that anything that is so good that it is hard to understand is and should be sterilized. I didn't cite this as my reason for putting it on the list but I'm calling myself out. Feel free to voluntarily sacrifice your gonads if "The Prestige" didn't rock your socks.

Most silent tragedy

Idiocracy

Mike Judge's first movie since "Office Space" should have been a notable event, but the studio apparently had interest since the budget was covered by product placement, and dumped this seemingly unfinished comedy with nary an advertisement. The film, centering around a completely average man who travels to a future so dumbed-down he is easily the smartest man in the world, as an open door to a universe of night-guns and sky social commentary that never really comes together. It only will forever plague "idiotocracy" through out time, but this one deserves a look, if only for the clip of 2500's most popular show "The Nylbats."

Favorite movie-related event

Lwe Boll boxes his critics

Uwe Boll, who seems to only makes movies so that his German investors can make money through a tax loop for movies that fail, continues to insist that he is actually trying to be a respectable filmmaker. Despite no evidence that he actually tries when making one of his many video game adaptations, he is so upset by critics trashing his movies that he has challenged all of them to boxing matches. The fact that he is a former amateur boxer and they are all chubby fat nerds does not seem to faze him when he gives them their beatdown. I want to officially say to Mr. Boll, you're a hack who makes terrible movies just so that they will lose money and if you want some come, and get it, because I've already reserved your seat on the pain train.

My Biggest Regret

'Babel' Review

I went to this movie not planning to review it and when I did, unfortunately let my emotions get the better of me and didn't fully explain my position. I thought "Babel" was a fantastic movie, just not nearly as good as it should have been, and I think critics are excusing the shoddy quality of the finished product because the parts are so good, and I refuse to let the extremely talented filmmakers off the hook.

CADEZZA

n. a technically brilliant, sometimes improvised solo passage toward the close of a concerto, an exceptionally brilliant part of an artistic work

arts & entertainment

year in review

The best, the worst, the unwatchable

BY BRIAN STITT
MOVIE EDITOR

Best Pictures of 2006

Casino Royale

Awesome. Not a word professors or academics like in this context, but it fits this movie like a tailored tux. A stellar big-budget, modern action-adventure and a suave old-school Bond film, "Casino Royale" only fails in that it cannot speed up and slow down at the same time. Sure, there are too many action sequences and a "Return of the King" style pseudo-ending, but too much awesome is the kind of problem that don't need fixing. Thumbs up as well for introducing the world to Daniel Craig and solidifying Eva Green as the reason we just can't hate France. And thanks to everyone involved for reminding the world that audiences don't have to settle for half-hearted Michael Bay explosion fests and that Hollywood can put out a good product that makes money.



Daniel Craig stars as James Bond in "Casino Royale."

The Prestige

Maybe this is my intense crush on Christopher Nolan talking, but leave it to my boy C>Note (I just coined that just so y'all know) to come up with a twist film that surprises with technique on top of story, and to put together a quick, so-called masterpiece. This film is not "easy" and may take some time to develop a strong reputation, but be sure that it will someday be referenced with other under-appreciated works like "Citizen Kane" and "Rules of the Game." Also be sure to note that I am a pretentious gabgash when it comes to Chris Nolan's work, so feel free to ridicule that last statement all you want, but rue the day when my prediction comes true. "The Prestige" is haunting and beautiful and gets better the more you accept that it really messed with your head.

Renaissance

This was a good year for gritty, sci-fi epics as well as revisionist noir. While the best of neither category, "Children of Men" and "Brokek" respectively, "Renaissance" manages to set itself apart from all other animated films of 2006 by being quite simply the most visually stunning movie of the year. Using motion capture, the director (Christian Volckman) creates black and white triangles that dynamically divide the screen and makes his characters move fluidly without any shades of gray to help. A tough cop investigating a missing beauty while falling for her older sister is a bit formulaic, but the vision of future Paris and the corporate-controlled government add enough of a twist to keep things moving from one beautiful shot to the next. Even more of a living comic book than "Sin City," this film only serves to further blur the ever disappearing line between purely graphic and moving pictures.

Children of Men

Fabulously shot and gripping from the first moments, "Children of Men" only suffers from a terrible marketing campaign. This is one of those films that has all heart-pounding action, nail-biting suspense and intriguing social commentary. It resembles, in plot, this year's earlier film "V for Vendetta" (which worked very well in its own way), exploring a future society where every country in the world has folded except jolly old England due to total human infertility. It surpasses other movies this year by identifying problems and solutions without simplifying, while also achieving major success in editing and photography. The performances are all very good and the production value is ridiculous (although it will probably never recoup the \$70 million spent on it) but, being science fiction, it will probably be taken less seriously as an end-of-year contender. That's really too bad because "Children of Men" is one of those select few sci-fi movies that are able to show us a more accurate depiction of ourselves than even documentaries are capable of.

The Proposition

Put this on your Netflix list if you missed it, because this Australian revisionist western deserves better than it has gotten from most end-of-the-year lists. "Apocalpyto" was certainly more violent and "The Libertine" was definitely grimmer, but no movie used mood and setting better this year. An often upsetting look at family and frontier violence, Nick Cave's script proves the superiority of good characters over those that are easily identifiable. The audience may never quite pick a hero or even someone to root for, but the film still delivers in a very traditional way. Guy Pearce is powerful, but Ray Winstone and Danny Huston steal plenty of room for themselves without anyone getting the short end of the stick. Not perfect, but in this somewhat weak year deserves a look.



Passengers plot their retaliation against the hijackers in Universal Pictures' "United 93."

United 93

Much has been said about people "not being ready" and many think that this came out "too soon" after the 9/11 attacks. I don't believe in forcing people to see movies against their will, but this movie comes very close to required viewing. Paul Greengrass succeeds in making a picture that is bold and unafraid of confronting reality and yet never once sinks into exploitation. The story of the attacked flight is presented in an incredibly original way that emphasizes humanity in a medium famous for making superheroes. Made without political messages or intentions, "United 93" does not pull on our guilt, liberal bearstings but taps into the part of ourselves that connects us with the country and the world; I can't promise that everyone will like this movie, but its ability to root out a person's true feelings about terrorism and global politics is undeniable.

Best Performances of 2006

Male:

Forest Whitaker - "The Last King of Scotland"

I do not usually like big performances that tend to overshadow movies and win awards. I find them to be broad and gimmicky, although I can appreciate the heavy lifting that the actors have to perform. However, Forest Whitaker (Last King of the Understated Performances) brings an unprecedented range to his portrait of a modern political figure. From the moment he takes the screen the movie is his, yet he doesn't step over his costars. He charms and terrifies them and, through them, the audience. The greatest aspect of the performance is Whitaker's ability to go from smiling man of the people to snarling dictator in the blink of an eye, naturally and without breaking character. He overpowers the movie at times, but never once steps into caricature and for that, he should be handsomely rewarded by the Academy.

Female:

Rinco Kikuchi - "Babel"

In a year filled with wonderful star performances by Britain's best actresses (Helen Mirren, Kate Winslet, Cate Blanchett, Dame Judi Dench), I was most impressed and pleased with an unknown Japanese girl in an ensemble piece. In "Babel," Rinco Kikuchi plays Chieko, a deaf teenager who struggles to assert her sexual frustrations and to accept her apparent suicide. Without the help of spoken dialogue, Kikuchi creates the most gripping character in a large film filled with better-known actors. She uses her body and face, succeeding without the crutch of good writing to buoy bad delivery. I found myself fascinated with her story more than the others, which I actually found detrimental to the film itself, as her character felt tacked-on. But she succeeds in accomplishing a very naked and honest portrayal of femininity and youth, and that's the kind of thing that should be rewarded.

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Sudoku By Michael Mepham

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

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 Sudokus, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Monday's puzzle

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

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Crossword

ACROSS

- Off-the-cuff remark
- Photo session
- Former draft org.
- Pat or Debby
- Brief note
- Turn left
- Political coalitions
- Diary
- Tank's contents
- What's left
- Create a totem pole
- Some French?
- Shaq's target
- Type of hound
- Masterstroke
- Happy songs
- Comforted again
- "Falco"
- So the point
- Chess turn
- Figure out
- Magnificent number?
- 43 (inclined)
- Additions to contracts
- Look
- de mer
- Strangle
- Frail party supervisor
- Go wrong
- Obsolete anesthetic
- Sort of situation
- Stretch the truth
- House toppers
- No-yo Man's instrument
- Was ahead
- Bridge hand
- Sibylline letters
- Shairif or Eggs
- the ramparts -
- Alley prowlers
- Ocean predator
- Continant
- Taste sensation
- Final profit
- Tools for granted
- Foundation
- Narrowest
- Wasn't coiforst
- Helper
- Narrow fissure
- Pittsburgh prep
- Seedless plants
- Defenses
- hold your horses
- Wander
- Of all time
- 36 Lams
- Field
- Audiobooks
- personal
- "The - of the Lamb"
- 51 Try out for
- Rhythmic patter
- Peasode

1/24/06

Solutions

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	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

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SU UPDATE

1.24 SOCIAL CHANGE GRANTS

Wed 6pm - 7pm The Community Service Office announces three funding opportunities totaling \$18,000 for WU undergraduate students to pursue full-time summer work in the development and implementation of an innovative community project. Please visit www.communityservice.wustl.edu/grants to learn more about these unique opportunities and plan to attend an information session.
 LOCATION: Francis Gym (Athletic Complex)

1.25 JUDY GOLD

Thur 8pm As seen on Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn, The Aristocrats, and Comedy Central Presents.
 LOCATION: Gargoyle

1.26-27 A LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS 2007

Fri-Sat 7pm - 9pm After Dark presents its annual a cappella concert, A Light from the Darkness, featuring all new songs including "Snakes on a Plane," "Walk On," "Who's Lovin' You" and more. Featuring the award-winning University of Illinois Other Guys, The Mosaic Whispers (Fri) and The Amateurs (Sat.) Doors open at 7, show starts at 7:30 pm. \$5 for students, \$7 for non-students. For more information, visit our website at <http://afterdark.wustl.edu>
 LOCATION: Graham Chapel



AFTER DARK

1.27-28 FREE PRACTICE EXAM

Sat-Sun Sat 8:30am Sun 12:30pm The Pre Law Society is hosting a free practice exam being administered by The Princeton Review. The exams will be graded by The Princeton Review and returned on Monday the 29th. Before the exam you will learn about the Pre Law Society's extended semester long strategy session that you may take for FREE. This will include monthly classes where a Princeton Review instructor will teach the sections of the exam. This type of opportunity is incredibly expensive but your Pre-Law Society is bringing it to you for FREE. Students should contact bdharper@wustl.edu.
 Location: Private Dining Room in the Village House (It's back to the right of the grill)

Find out more about what's going on in Student Union @...

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