

STUDENT LIFE

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WWW.STUDLIFE.COM

Students busted for cocaine on the 4

BY SAM GILZIN
ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

Last week, campus police arrested two students on the South 40 who were suspected of marijuana and cocaine possession. According to the WUPD crime log, the students both admitted to charges of possession. They lived in Eliot House and Lien Hall.

The two arrests occurred on Friday, Jan. 26 and Monday, Jan. 29, following the discovery of suspected marijuana and cocaine during a Residential Life search.

"We send [the sample] to the crime lab, and the crime lab does an analysis and calculates

the weight amount," said Don Strom, chief of WUPD. "In these two cases, it was relatively small amounts of suspected cocaine. I don't think that either of these cases would fall under serious charges."

Although drug possession is automatically considered a felony, the crime increases in severity according to the amount possessed.

Chief Strom also indicated that while possession of drugs with the intent to distribute them is a more serious offense, there was no evidence suggesting that was the case in the recent arrests.

In both of last week's cases,

evidence was found during a search conducted by Residential Life.

Based on the terms of housing contracts, Residential Life retains the right to search student rooms, when it suspects that students may be in danger or in violation of the law.

"Searching students' rooms is not something that Residential Life does very often now it is something that we enjoy doing, but it is something that we keep in place to keep our community safe," said Tim Lemmert, associate director of Residential Life.

While students who have been arrested under drug

charges are subject to criminal charges, they may also be punished by University sanctions. These sanctions vary on a case-by-case basis, and can include referral to a judicial administrator, suspension, and termination of University housing.

"Students are held accountable to the University judicial code and Residential Life policy. If the University believes that a student has violated one of those, we will hold the student accountable based on the information we have. That may happen independently of the Police Department," explained Lemmert.

Although drug use on cam-

pus is often perceived as limited, some students suggest that it is more widespread than official statistics indicate.

"I would say that marijuana use is very widespread, especially in terms of those who have tried it," said a student who uses marijuana and wished to remain anonymous. "Cocaine use has definitely increased on campus in the last few years."

The student indicated that while it is sometimes difficult to find drugs on campus, many choose to "outsourcing" their purchases to the off-campus community, allowing them easier access to the illegal substances.

According to the student,

the drug of choice on campus is marijuana.

"A lot of people who use marijuana—both on campus and off-view it as a lot less harmful than alcohol," said the student.

The question of drug use on campus as a part of a larger University concern about high-risk behavior by college students.

"Alcohol use and abuse continues to be a concern on our campus and all campuses and we still have people making decisions that are in some cases life threatening," said Strom.

—With additional reporting by Shweta Mathur

MULTICULTURAL 'PROJECT' SELLS OUT A.C.



A member of the Man Rachel Project performs to a sold out crowd in the Athletic Complex on Thursday, Feb. 1. The group consists of 77 musicians from around the world, although only eight came to Wash. U. See a slideshow with more photos online at www.studlife.com.

Pell Grant recipients may receive raise

BY LAURA GEGEL
NEWS EDITOR

Congress is poised to increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$260, the first increase in four years. The House approved the national grant allowance spike to \$4,310 on Wednesday in a 286-140 vote.

The Senate is expected to vote on the budget next week.

There are 456 Washington University undergraduate students who are currently Pell Grant recipients.

Pell Grants are available for all undergraduates whose families earn less than \$40,000 a year. It is the largest grant for postsecondary education funded by the government, going to over five million low-income students a year, but has remained capped at \$4,050 since 2003.

"It hasn't increased in the last four years because there's been a low priority placed on the last couple of congresses on making college affordable for low-income students," said Luke Swarthout, an advocate for

higher education with the Public Interest Research Group.

"The failure to increase the Pell Grant over the last several years has meant that inflation has increased and the cost of college has gone up and the maximum grant award has been less and less powerful," said Swarthout.

The Pell Grant increase is part of the \$463.5 billion federal budget bill for the 2007 fiscal year. Each year the budget begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30.

Director of Student Financial Services, Bill Withroad, is excited about the potential Pell Grant boost.

"If Congress passes the bill to increase the Pell Grant amount, it will mean that low-income students will have to borrow less or work less to finance their college educations. Pell Grant funds go directly from the Department of Education, passing through the University, directly to the eligible students," he said.

See PELL GRANT, page 3

Black Anthology's 'Re/frain' looks to dispel myths



Students act out a skit at last year's Black Anthology in the Edison Theater. This year's Black Anthology performance is taking place this weekend.

BY ELIZABETH LEWIS
NEWS MANAGER

This weekend, Black Anthology, an annual play that celebrates black culture, invites its audience to accompany the cast through a medley of decisions faced by blacks in the music industry. The title, "Re/frain: A Cautionary Tale," plays on a dual meaning of the musical idea of refrain, combined with the more figurative idea of refraining and using caution while making rash decisions.

LeMar Moore, a senior and the director of this year's show, has never acted in Black Anthology (BA), but he recognizes the need to dispel the myth that it is a show that only black people can appreciate.

"It is a cultural show, but when you have the words 'Black Anthology,' people think that [the show] is two hours of complaining about racism and op-

pression. In reality, it is a celebration of culture, just like any other show," he said.

Junior Valerie Wade, assistant director for the play, agreed. "Washington University does not appreciate BA like it should. People are much more enthusiastic for other cultural shows, and they are more nonchalant about this one. The other shows are great, but there is less of an interest in Black Anthology," she continues. "The show is not always preachy, but it is something fun that is part of black American life."

Members of BA have tried to increase attendance for this year's BA through increased publicity, such as by using Facebook and by going into the University community to promote the show.

Moore said that there has also been discussion of making BA more of a variety show. "People might be turned off

that we are a full-length show that does not have any song and dance," he said.

Essentially, though, Moore said that the show includes something for everyone and that there is at least one moment that will emotionally move each audience member. He said that the script is extremely layered, which he appreciates because it allows for every audience member to discern his/her own themes. However, it is a fact that causes Moore some anxiety concerning the way that the audience will perceive it.

"If [the audience] does not pay close attention, they can miss important themes of the show," he said.

Though he is leaving it to the audience to discern their own themes, which Moore says is essential when presenting a play,

See BLACK ANTHOLOGY, page 3

Bears look for more weekend wins



Men's and women's basketball dominated Brandeis and NYU last weekend. Can they have a repeat domination when they hit the road this weekend? Sports, Page 6

Death: it's on the way



Staff columnist Greg Allen grapples with a difficult subject: death. Can he figure out a way to avoid the inevitable? Forum, Page 5

INSIDE:

Forum	4
Sports	6
Scene	7
Classifieds	9
Sudoku	9

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Pulse

Compiled by Laura Geggel

Friday, Feb. 2

Clam Jam

V-Day 2002 presents an evening of live music, free food and a bevy of raffle prizes. A \$5 donation is encouraged at the door. The proceeds from this event will go directly to the RAVEN foundation, a not-for-profit organization seeking to end violence and domestic abuse through prevention and intervention.

Folk Festival

It's not your everyday folk festival that raises awareness about domestic violence. The Sheldon Concert Hall Acoustic City presents the third annual St. Louis Folk Festival with singer/songwriter Vance Gilbert, folk-rock trio Girty-guns and singing sisters Nerissa and Katryna Nields. Tickets for tonight's 8 p.m. show for college students are \$15 and are available through MetroFix at (314) 534-1111 or online at www.sheldonconcerthall.org.

Baroque cello bonanza

Musicalcello Paul Laird has a thing for cello, and he thinks you should, too. Laird plays the baroque cello himself and is the director of musicalcello at the University of Kansas. His lecture, "What Was—and Is—the Baroque Cello?" takes place today in the Music Classrooms Building on Forsyth at 4 p.m. and is free to the public.

Korean Film Festival

This month long festival kicks off today with the screening of the award-winning movie "Untold Scandal" (2003). Player Jo-won makes a deal with his cousin and seductress Lady Cho to deflower a virtuous widow. They get caught up in their game of manipulation that entangles them with persecuted Catholics. The flick shows tonight for free at 7 p.m. in Brown 100.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Raising awareness about domestic violence

Representatives from the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Wash. U.'s CORE, 1 in 4, and GWB's Violence Against Women Awareness will inform audience members at Ursula Firesteel at 11:30 a.m. An art and activism panel discussion facilitated by Dean Jami Ake and featuring Nerissa and Katryna Nields, and Dawn Stringfield will take place at 1 p.m.

SLAM Portrait Discussion

St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM) is holding "Portraiture in Perspective," a panel discussion led by The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts. The panel will explore approaches artists have taken while representing individuals or groups of people. The event is from 2-5 p.m. tomorrow in SLAM's auditorium and is free to the public.

AC workout facilities don't shape up

BY BRITTANY FARR
STAFF REPORTER

As Washington University continues to pour money into the construction of new dorms and other campus renovations, many students are criticizing the University's failure to modernize workout facilities.

Freshman Barb Grigby, a January Program Scholar, was surprised when she went to workout for the first time this semester.

Wash. U. is such a beautiful campus," said Grigby. "Everything is pretty updated or in the process of getting updated, except for the workout facilities. The Athletic Complex and the South 40 gym are unorganized and the equipment is too close together. A lot of the machines are broken, too."

For instance, while the AC elliptical room has sanitizing fluid for the machines, there are often no towels for courtesy cleaning between use. Despite these conditions, students must pay a \$30 fee every year to use the South 40 gym and a \$40 fee to use the cardio room at the AC.

At many of Washington University's peer institutions, students can access fitness centers for free. Emory University's Woodruff Physical Education Center (Wood-Pec) opened in 1983 following a \$20 million renovation. The Wood-Pec has since undergone additional renovations in 2004 and features a dance studio and indoor tennis courts.

In 2003, the University of Chicago opened the doors of the Gerald Ratner Athletics Center. The \$31 million, 150,000 square foot fitness center boasts a swimming pool, competition gymnastics, a dance room, a juice bar and saunas among other facilities. "It is ridiculous that other schools have nicer workout centers and they don't charge students," said Grigby. "Wash. U. shouldn't even charge students—it's



Women exercise in the cardiovascular room at the Athletic Complex on Thursday, Feb. 1.

just not worth it."

T.J. Shelton, assistant director of athletics, was quick to defend the workout facilities at the University.

"The athletic and recreation facilities at Wash. U. provide the overall campus community a location to maintain a healthy lifestyle," said Shelton. "There are a variety of activities for just about everyone's liking."

Senior Russ Sims agreed with Shelton. Although Sims said that the facilities need to be updated, he believes "they have a good variety of different machines that target various muscle groups." Shelton also cited the success of University athletics as evidence that workout facilities are adequate.

"When you look at the

overall success of the athletic programs, coaches and student athletes have done an excellent job using the resources made available to them. (They) make sure (the machines) are in the best condition possible to compete at a high level on a consistent basis," said Shelton.

Shelton said that the University is always discussing ways to better serve students' needs. One of these topics of discussion includes the need for larger workout facilities.

"There is no question our programs have grown and space has become a premium," said Shelton. "The athletic department, with the support of the University, continues to discuss these issues."

See WORKOUT, page 3

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WU's partnership with Chinese university recognized for success

BY DAVID SONG
STAFF REPORTER

The joint venture Executive MBA (EMBA) program between Washington University and Fudan University in Shanghai was ranked eighth on Financial Times' list of 2006 international EMBA programs, and ranked top on the 2006 list for programs in Mainland China.

"The joint venture program started in 2001. We were the first joint venture program in China, and Fudan is one of the leading, authorized universities in China," said Jim Little, Donald Danforth distinguished professor in the Olin School of Business and the academic director of University EMBA programs.

Fudan, among the oldest and most prestigious universities in China, and the Olin School of Business started the joint venture in 2002. Taught in English, the program lasts 18 months and largely resembles the EMBA program at Washington University.

"The EMBA degree at the time was very new to China; Chinese universities weren't allowed to offer it at that point," said Little. "We modeled the program after our curriculum here. They're

very similar."

Faculty from both universities will share responsibilities, according to Little, although those from Olin take up the bulk of the work because of the usage of English in the program.

"Teaching it is also done with a co-teacher. We actually share administrative resources and ideas," said Little.

So far, the program has found success in finding students, despite its relatively high tuition.

"We've been very successful in recruiting students, [although] in Chinese terms, we're very expensive."

With China's increasing economic potential, a demand for trained managers has soared accordingly.

"Many of the companies here have indicated [a need for] quality management training in China. To my mind, people often talk about science and engineering, where China is desperately short in trained managers. The economy is growing so fast that the need for managers is growing exponentially."

"China is a rich opportunity. We found an absolutely first-rate partner. The key to this [program] is having a good and savvy partner,"

Little said.

When asked about teaching challenges between the two universities, Little stated that a primary concern involved Chinese emphasis on vertical learning - from the teacher to the student - and the Western use of horizontal learning, where students are encouraged to discuss and evaluate a subject material.

"Traditional Chinese education is more based on rote learning than ours. Even now in an undergraduate class, the professor lectures and the students take notes. That was a real concern. What you teach in a business school is discussion-based, particularly at executive levels," said Little.

The differences in teaching methods, however, proved less of an obstacle than expected.

"It turns out it wasn't a problem at all. It may be a matter of self-selection; it may be that these people are in Western companies. These students had a thirst to learn this way. It was much less of a challenge than we thought it would be," stated Little.

"The most difficult thing is, basically they've got to be working full-time and as full-time students."

BLACK ANTHOLOGY ♦ FROM PAGE 1

he says that there is a central idea that everyone can appreciate.

"The basic message of the play is being who you are. There is a storytelling element, and the central theme is to tell your own story," he said.

Nicholas Okoro, a junior in this year's show, said that acting in the play has encouraged

him to have a more open mindset about why people make certain decisions.

"[BA] makes me see humanity in all people. I see a different character's life and problems, and I see that this person may have a reason. There is a definite cause behind every action. BA has made me consider that more," he said.

Most of all, though, he wants the play to encourage discussion so that cultural experiences can be shared.

"This show will definitely raise questions. As a campus that promotes diversity, [BA] sparks dialogue."

The play will be held at 8 p.m. tonight, and Saturday, Feb. 3 in Edison Theater.

PELL GRANT ♦ FROM PAGE 1

If the President signs the bill into law, it would affect students who are already receiving Pell Grants for this school year.

Swarthout hopes to work with Congress for the 2008 budget and maximize the grant to \$5,100. "There is pretty broad bipartisan support to make that happen," said Swarthout.

Pell Grants may reach Swarthout's benchmark and more. Yesterday, according to the Associated Press, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced that President Bush will increase the maximum amount awarded to a Pell Grant recipient to \$4,600 in his 2008 budget. Bush's budget will be released on Monday. The administration proposed that the grant will increase to a maximum of \$5,400 over a period of five years.

But for now, Student Financial Services is welcoming the proposed \$260 increase.

"The bill is significant in that it will make college more accessible to low income students," said Wilbrecht.

WORKOUT ♦ FROM PAGE 2

issues and look for ways to accommodate all programs in the near future."

Shelton said that students must understand that the University cannot replace equipment as frequently as other health clubs.

"Apparently there have been complaints about the recreation center being outdated," said Shelton. "The fitness industry, on average, updates their equipment every six months. We currently have the appropriate

equipment for the Wash. U. community to not only stay healthy, but to push their bodies beyond measure, if they choose to do so."

Sophomore Ben Fox has already discussed joining an off-campus gym with friends.

"Unfortunately, I don't have a car on campus," Fox said. "But once I figure that out, I will join an off-campus in a heartbeat."

It's coming...

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As part of its contribution to the Big Read, the English department is sponsoring an essay contest open to all Washington University undergraduates for an essay of approximately 3,000 words on the theme "Burning to Read". The essay may concern itself with the history of reading or of specific books, with the love of reading or with the desire to burn, ban or censor books. The essay should be submitted by March 1, 2007.

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We welcome your submissions and thank you for your consideration.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Sansalone: proceed with caution

Mary Sansalone, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, recently announced the creation of a "Plan for Excellence," which will overhaul major aspects of the engineering school. In particular, there are three significant changes which will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the school's future: the construction of three new academic buildings which will serve as a springboard to help expand the resources of nearly every engineering department; the elimination of the undergraduate Aerospace Engineering major in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace

Engineering; and the merging of the Department of Civil Engineering with the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering to form a new Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Structural Engineering. Of course, such a drastic restructuring of so many aspects of the engineering school is bound to cause concern. Such concerns are warranted and indeed necessary, considering the ambitious nature of this plan. Yet we also believe that there are real benefits to be gained from implementing the "Plan for Excellence."

The most drastic part of this plan is the elimination of the undergraduate major in

Aerospace Engineering. This is not a decision that should be taken lightly. Despite the fact that the department only awarded six Bachelor of Science degrees during the 2005-2006 school year, the elimination of the program, starting with the entering freshman class of 2011, means that a useful recruiting tool for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences will be gone. Meetings with industry advisors indicated that a better course of preparation, however, would be an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering followed by a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering. This advice appears to be sound. In fact, we

are glad that Dean Sansalone consulted industry advisors in the first place. Such advice is critical to maintaining the professional quality of the engineering school, and we applaud her for it.

An equally important aspect of the plan is the creation of the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Structural Engineering. This is a measure we also support, although we do have several reservations. It is unclear whether this change is merely an administrative restructuring or whether the undergraduate majors in Civil and Mechanical Engineering will be completely changed. This is something that Dean Sansalone needs

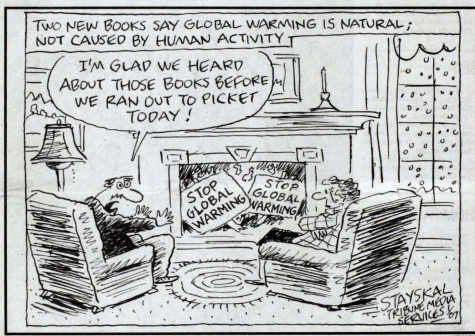
to communicate clearly to students and staff. Students in both programs need to be assured that their future, whether in employment or professional certification, is not placed in jeopardy as a result of this merger. These students also need to have some input into the final structure of this decision.

The decision to build three new academic buildings for the engineering school is a no-brainer. The future for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences is critically dependent on its ability to recruit high quality students. These new buildings will surely help with that goal, and we applaud Dean Sansalone for

deciding on this much needed expansion.

It is not an understatement to say that the "Plan for Excellence" will fundamentally alter the school's future. These are the first major changes since the school's founding as the Medical Engineering Department in 1997. More communication and input from students, staff, and industry experts is still needed to determine whether the full plan is the best possible option for the Washington University. But, right now we are confident enough in what we have seen to approve of Dean Sansalone's vision for the school. For these reasons, we endorse the "Plan for Excellence."

EDITORIAL CARTOON



It's in the blood

BY DAPHNA SHAMASH
STAFF COLUMNIST

If you've watched the news at all recently, you've likely seen the video of several teenage girls from Florida fighting over a boy. Since the incident took place last week, every news station has continued these girls calling their behavior brutal and cruel, and the story has become headline news all over the country. Now the attackers are facing criminal charges and will likely be punished for their actions. But did they really do something "vicious," or was their reaction a normal human one?

War is the most common theme in human history. From the beginning of time people have chosen to solve their differences using physical power with the strong prevailing and the weak being forced to submit."

soldiers to do so. However, despite our efforts to become more civilized, we have not been able to successfully change human nature. Though modern day "gladiators" do not fight to the death, their battles are still violent and bloody. Boxing, wrestling, and the newest Ultimate Fighter Championship are all very

"From the beginning of time people have chosen to solve their differences using physical power with the strong prevailing and the weak being forced to submit."

popular. The UFC has seen even greater success than anyone could have anticipated. Its popularity is soaring and its ratings have beaten those of the NBA, MLB and NFL among men between the ages of 18-34. Unaffected by John McCain's criticism of the sport calling it "human cockfighting," UFC

is only getting more and more popular. Often referred to as "the next NASCAR," fans enjoy watching live fighting with far fewer regulations than similar programs. Spectators are captivated by the honest and ruthless competition. Unlike wrestling, which is staged, and boxing, which has many more rules and limitations, UFC offers viewers the opportunity to watch a real fight where each man's physical abilities are tested to their limits. And the fighters themselves truly enjoy participating. In a recent spot on MSNBC, one fighter who gave up his career as a high school teacher said that he was grateful for the opportunity to do what he loved. Many men from all over are competing for the coveted title of Ultimate Fighter and enduring broken bones and other bloody injuries to achieve this goal. Although the fight between the girls in Florida was not a matchup between willing opponents, it did demonstrate this same warrior instinct that even women seem to possess.

In an episode of *Ally McBeal*, John Cage, a shy and eccentric man working as a

lawyer, defends a client who used violence to solve a discrepancy with another man. In his argument, he tells a story in the most gratifying moment in his life: when he knocked a man down for threatening him. John is a graduate of Harvard Law School, an accomplished litigator, and a partner in a successful firm. However, he claims that despite all of these accomplishments, nothing he has done has ever been as satisfying as throwing that punch. Although he is a fictional character, his words seem to ring true with people throughout the world. There is something incredibly validating about physically dominating another person. So it is really shocking to find that some teenage girls resolve disputes using their fists? Is it truly a warning sign that there are real problems in our society as many newscasters have believed, or is it just human nature?

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

I've never been all that competitive. In little league softball, I was the kid in the outfield looking for ladybugs, and I played center for the snacks. Not exactly driven to win. High school brought the fight for class rankings, scholarships, gold stars, gluttonous resumes and college acceptance letters. But honestly, my struggle was more for escape than dominance. Here at Wash. U., however, things have changed. The urge to compete, to compare, to win, has insidiously seeped into my life, taking charge and cracking the whip.

At Wash. U., most that Midwestern charm and down-home appeal boasted about in college guides, but his smiles and a hint of an accent doesn't keep this from being a savage, call of the wild kind of place. Never in my life, not even with my dweeby high school friends, have I ever been surrounded by such ubiquitous, such intense competition. And finally, unavoidably, I feel it too. Yeah, there's all that obvious stuff. Premeds tearing out their hair and cursing the stars. Ridiculous cursing on Bio exams. But a much more subtle vein of competition runs through campus life. At the gym I recently found myself feeling the pressure, increasing my mileage on the treadmill to match or even slightly top my friend's pace. Good thing

Tess Croner

I had the safety clip on, or I might have died. And there's library time, smugly reported to the discomfort of more slovenly students. Nicer for some spent slaving away in an Olm cubby ears bragging rights.

Another favorite is the lack of sleep. I know people who walk around like zombies, chowing down on coffee beans and staring at you with bloodshot eyes. They sigh and casually mention a third night in a row with only two hours of sleep. Mixed in with the exhaustion, there's clearly a load of pride. The prize goes to whoever can crack the crap out of himself the most and still manage to attend class. Finally, units. I ended up taking 20 units this semester because I felt like a candy ass taking my usual 15 or 16. My friends all seem to take 18, 19, 20, or 21. Shouldn't I?

For somebody who's never been that competitive, I suddenly can't wait to jump in and duke it out. In a place that takes the measure of you, I'm hot to measure up. Sure, it can be tiring, annoying and at times ridiculous to be so competitive, but I've got the fever. I have no choice but to go out there, kick some ass, go turbo on the treadmill, stay the night in the library and max out my course load. Everyone knows that what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger, and it surely makes you better than anyone else. The ladybugs in the outfield can eat my dust.

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

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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

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Confession of a sports nihilist: I love the Super Bowl

BY SARA REMEDIOS
STAFF COLUMNIST

Articles go, this one will be more or less a divergence. Usually, someone would assume that when choosing to write an article published to a wide audience much better served in most subjects than she, a girl would choose something she actually knew about. Something about which she could speak intelligently and knowledgeably. Something in which she at least had a great interest.

Yeah... but no, I have decided, self-proclaimed sports nihilist that I am, to nevertheless devote this week's column to that which is probably preeminent on the minds of most guys, and plenty of girls,

on campus this weekend: the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl, and all the other details. In my experience, I have failed to see a deeper meaning in a bunch of men running around and hitting each other in an attempt to get what can only be described as a mutilated pig carcass into a painted section of grass. In spite of this, the Super Bowl is still a good time. Beer flows freely, chips and dips and nachos and pretzels and pigs-in-a-blanket and all other varieties of coronary-inducing junk food are present, and everyone gets really excited. If you go to a party, you're expected to show up in grungy jeans and athletic tees, maybe even a pair of team-spirited sweatshirts. Sweet, right? I'm a fan.

My family would be shocked, likely appalled, by that admission. Don't get me wrong, they love football—my sister's at Notre Dame, for Christ's sake! Sports are a big deal. Which is why they have

"I have, however, developed a newfound appreciation for football games. I'll admit it: the beer and snacks have won me over!"

always been so pained by their "little girl," who would hide in the basement with a plate of snacks, a Shirley

Temple and a Nancy Drew book during every Super Bowl of her childhood. Actually, not even just Super Bowl: any bowl game, or even a regular-season 49ers game (back when they were good). The same now-not-so-little girl who only last year sat through the Fiesta Bowl with Tolstoy on her lap, completely oblivious to the screaming and jump-whoring surrounding her (save for her little brother's spirited rendition of the ND fight song, accompanied by his very own interpretive touchdown dance).

And yet, that same girl has gone to college and ended up dating a sports addict, and suddenly she likes football? What the hell?

No, I do not like football. I

no longer care in fear of it, but the bone-crunching tackles still get me. Despite what I am assured, it looks like it hurts! I have, however, developed a newfound appreciation for football games. I'll admit it: the beer and snacks have won me over! And so, this year I am genuinely excited about the Super Bowl like a bad case of herpes. I say this: give it a try. Find some friends, microwave some potato skins, bust out the (root) beer, and hang out by the TV. Who knows, you might even like it.

Sure, I'll probably end up asleep on the floor, succumbed to the exhaustion of trying to figure out what's going on and why everyone is screaming, but still. There's bound to be good food and good beer and, ironic though it may seem, the chance to sit quietly and people-watch.

To any of you who genuinely like football and still manage to pass the pig carcass

comment, I apologize for being flip. I know there's a whole dimension of athleticism and team spirit and bonding that, for the life of me, have never quite been able to get. More power to you if you have. To those of you who agreed with me, those who would ordinarily avoid the Super Bowl like a bad case of herpes, I say this: give it a try. Find some friends, microwave some potato skins, bust out the (root) beer, and hang out by the TV. Who knows, you might even like it.

Sara is a sophomore in Arts & Sciences. She can be reached via e-mail at saremedios@studlife.com.

BY GREG ALLEN
STAFF COLUMNIST

When I was young, I thought every human being's life should be measured by a standard called the "delete key of history." I thought that after you died, if the world looked as though you had never lived, your life was without meaning. For the longest time, this meant my only priority was getting in a history book. A few years ago, my priorities changed. Instead of focusing on leaving behind a legacy, I decided I would never die. You can call me crazy, but I'll call you ignorant. I really have every intention of living forever—or I should say, until every intonation until yesterday, but I'll get to that later. Of course it's difficult

"You're going to die and every hint that you might have ever existed is going to disintegrate into an equal distribution of cold heat. The delete key of history says you don't, didn't, and can't matter."

to distinguish my rationalization for my potential for immortality from the "Superman Complex" that psychologists say most teenagers suffer from. If you haven't heard the term, the gist is that kids these days think like they've got two lives, drive like they're blindfolded and generally think they are incapable of being harmed by anything other than glowing green asteroids.

Do not subscribe to this view, but I am convinced

that if I can make it just a few decades without getting hit by a bus, sick with a bad case of bird flu or nuked by North Korea, I have an okay shot at living to see the sort of technological breakthrough that means there need never be a tombstone with my name on it. You see, futurists have been predicting immortality as a few decades away for many times many few decades. This time though—there's actually the early signals that they could be right. Whereas previous futurists simply mused vaguely about "panacea" pills or maybe the occasional radiation-induced youth (neither of which has any science to back it up), modern futurists can point to a number of instant technologies that really do have anti-aging potential. Nanotechnology, for instance, might allow for infinitesimal robots to do repairs on an intracellular level, fixing the failing DNA responsible for many of the symptoms of old age. If that doesn't work, I might just download my brain onto a hard drive, and I'll live forever as a cyborg. Like I said, in the past, most of these suggestions would have landed me in a loony bin, but very recently they don't look so crazy. Nanomachines already exist that are capable of using ATP (the energy source of human cells) as fuel, which lends credence to their potential use as DNA repairmen. It is also not that difficult to plug human nerves into robot appendages; it's not crazy to think that in the long run, I might take before we can plug our minds in directly.

All that stuff means I could live forever under one condition—that I always have a place to live. Unfortunately, Isaac Asimov's short story, "The Last Question," ruined my Tuesday by explaining that I definitely won't. It all comes down to the laws of thermodynamics,



ics, which state that, when it comes to energy, you can't have more and you can't have what you had earlier. The entropy of the universe is ever increasing. Woody Allen said it best, "It's the Second Law of Thermodynamics: Sooner or later everything turns to shit."

Start thinking in really huge timeframes. Were I to live four billion years (not long enough), I would have to somehow escape to another star because that's when the sun burns out. But after about a trillion years

of star hopping there'll be no energy to form new stars with 36 zeros after it, and time period about 70 times the current age of the universe) is ever increasing. Woody Allen said it best, "It's the Second Law of Thermodynamics: Sooner or later everything turns to shit."

Even if I were okay with living only a measly trillion years, the time after that gets really scary. After a few

unreal years (that's a 10 with 36 zeros after it, and it's still not long enough), all the protons in all the atoms of the universe will have undergone radioactive decay and cease to exist. If tril-

lion-year-old me finally does get a tombstone, after long enough even God won't be able to read it because it'll only be a homogeneous blob of subatomic goo. It's called the Heat Death of the Universe, and it's kind of sucks.

Some people might call it pretentious to be complaining that I don't get to live forever, but that's not the point. Nobody gets to live forever. Nobody's legacy even gets to last forever. No matter how long you work, no matter how many people you help, no matter

how much you love, you're going to die. You're going to die, and every hint that you might have ever existed is going to disintegrate into an equal distribution of cold heat. The delete key of history says you don't, didn't, and can't matter.

Bummer, huh?

Greg is a freshman in Arts & Sciences. He can be reached via e-mail at gcal-len@studlife.com.

BY DENNIS MICKLEY
STAFF COLUMNIST

Knowledge is making us fat. Think about it. Actually, don't. Do think about it. That's how they get you.

I realize this is a bold claim. But, as an investigative reporter for Student Life, someone who truly believes in the higher ideals of truth, virtue and because most of my pants do have elastic waistbands, it's my responsibility to tell you these dark, ugly truths. Let me start with my own experience.

You might call me a health nut. I'm the stairs when the elevator is out of order. I chew sugarfree gum. I only drive to class in truly temperate weather and when it's windy. I'm in the gym frequently. Generally during basketball games,

because sometimes I make a wrong turn on the way to get snacks. But the point is, I have physically entered the gym three, four, perhaps five times—and actively engaged in exercise—deciding against it at least twice that month. And yet, despite my devotion to natural athleticism (JV soccer MVP of the Putnam Lower School Ruggers, Coach Dingler: call me), and constant effort to be physically active, I've been packing on some big-time pounds.

I understand that this isn't enough evidence to go on. Most people can't be expected to put forth the Herculean effort I've made to stay in shape. So, I looked to the experience of others to find out if weight gain was a common phenomenon. Here's what I asked the huge (five-plus number of students) I

surveyed: "Do you attend classes here, at Washington University, where teachers try to impart knowledge to you?"

Do you often eat during

"The results speak for themselves. Learning is making us fat."

class? After class? Before class? In general, do you find yourself eating food?

Amazingly, the vast majority answered "yes" to at least one of these questions. The results speak for themselves. Learning is making us fat. The realization came like a thunderbolt—it was so obvious. How did I miss it?

Although my results were foolproof, I decided to cover my bases and attain a firm

intellectual basis on the issue of weight gain and research into alternative views. To do this, I Googled "food college fat fatydom fat-pants" and skimmed Wikipedia. Here's what I learned:

Some little-known, petty researchers at Harvard, desperate to defile blame from their institution, will have you believe that weight "has a strong socioeconomic correlation." That it's "creating another web of oppression that further diminishes the trampled underclass." I don't even know what that means. But I do know that it's a lie. They are trying to cloud the truth. Everyone knows the "trampled underclass" has it easy. At the present rate of wealth gap expansion, the poor won't be able to afford clothes much longer, let alone food. They're totally set. Your move, Harvard.

Another food apologist is James Beard, a famous chef who attended Reed College and wrote luminous volumes such as "The Casserole Cookbook." He said, "Food is our common ground, a universal experience." Well, have you seen Mr. Beard hang around the dining hall, spreading the universal love? No? That's because he's dead. Let's move on.

Socrates, on the other hand, could be seen as my predecessor. A great philosopher of Athens, he wrote, "Worthless people live only to eat and drink; people of worth eat and drink only to live." He was killed immediately after a mob of Athenian Ben Appelt employees.

Some research groups who are clearly filled with socially awkward members, blame beer. Let me tell you something about beer: It's

greatly misunderstood. Some try to discourage it as a party tool, a social lubricant. These people are wrong. The reality is that beer is a complex psychological defense mechanism, a means of coping with the unbearable pressures of reading James Joyce, and similar arduous. Once again, learning is the enemy.

These four points of view encompass every known belief on weight loss. Which do you believe? Do your teachers actively encourage you to do calisthenics in class? No. You sit. Sit, and "learn" also known as farting. Stop this oppression. Let's stand together—before it's too late. Before we can't stand at all.

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

Knowledge makes us fat: an empirical study

SPORTS

PREVIEWS

Men's basketball looking to extend lead in conference standings

❖ Heads east for key league contests over the weekend

BY UNAI KAHANI
SPORTS REPORTER

If last weekend's close calls were not enough, the Washington University men's basketball team will have to repeat its performances on the road this weekend to keep its unscathed University Athletic Association record (7-0, 16-1 overall) intact.

The seventh-ranked Bears, who are currently riding a 13-game winning streak, first travel to New York University today in a rematch of last Sunday's 79-78 overtime thriller. The Red and Green then head to Brandeis University for a Sunday matchup, as the Judges look to avenge last weekend's 68-64 defeat at the hands of the Bears. The trip is expected to be the team's most difficult of the regular season.

Washington University's current streak is the fifth longest in school history, and its No. 7 ranking is the program's highest since being ranked third in week 13 of the 2002-2003 season.

The recently outstanding play by sophomore point guard Sean Wallis earned him UAA Athlete of the Week honors after he averaged 20 points and 7.5 assists in the Bears' two most recent wins. The floor general also converted 27 of 28 free throws in the victories.

The Violets of NYU (14-4, 3-4 UAA) fell one spot in the national rankings to No. 25 after their loss to Wash. U. The Bears stormed back from a second-half deficit as large as 13 points in the Sunday win. A clutch three-pointer by sophomore forward Tyler Nading enabled the squad to send the game into overtime, where the Red and Green's momentum, and career-high point totals by Wallis (26) and Nading (25), helped secure the win.

NYU's four losses this season have come by a combined total of 11 points, and the school has yet to lose at home, with a perfect 11-0 record at the Coles Center. Senior big man Jason Boone holds down the fort for the Violets, as he has averaged 13.3 points and 9.0 rebounds

this season. Seniors Michael DeCorso and Daniel Falcon are also significant offensive contributors, with the pair averaging 13.3 and 12.1 points per game, respectively.

When they are done with business in the Big Apple, the Bears head to Waltham, Mass. on Sunday to battle the Judges of Brandeis University (11-5, 3-4 UAA). Brandeis is also undefeated at home this season, 11-0, and dating back to last season has won 13 consecutive games on its home floor.

Brandeis looks to even the season-series after its defeat to the Bears last Friday. Junior Steve Deluca leads the team with 14.4 points per game, but was held to 11 points and seven turnovers in the loss. The Judges, however, show balance with four other players averaging at least seven points per game.

After its two-game road trip, the Bears stay at home the following weekend to take on Emory University and Case Western Reserve University.



Troy Rutts leaps for a lay-up against an NYU defender last Sunday. The Bears look for a repeat victory against the Violets tonight in New York.

Lady Bears face weekend déjà vu with NYU rematch

❖ Women's basketball looks for repeat of last weekend's performances

BY TRISHA WOLF
SPORTS REPORTER

No two basketball games are ever the same.

This has been the mantra of Washington University's women's basketball team (14-4, 6-1 UAA) for the past week, as they have prepared to take on the

exact same two opponents this weekend as they did last.

Tonight, the Bears face the New York University Violets (16-2, 5-2 UAA), who they defeated last Sunday, 78-71. On Sunday afternoon, they tip off against the Brandeis University Judges (14-3, 4-3 UAA), against whom

the Red and Green scored a 69-50 win last Friday at the Field House. The biggest difference between this weekend and last? The Bears face both teams on the road, as opposed to playing in the Field House with the comfort of a supportive home crowd and the knowledge that

travel won't be a concern.

The Red and Green also come into their games this weekend with higher expectations than they have faced all season. They are currently ranked 11th in the country, their first appearance in the D3hoops.com poll since the preseason. On Sunday, they also assumed sole possession of first place in the UAA, the toughest conference in Division III women's basketball.

Many members of the team are looking forward to this weekend's challenge. "It is pretty fun to play a team back-to-back," said senior guard Sarah Schell. "It almost guarantees a higher level competition the second time around."

The Bears played a pair of solid games last weekend, exhibiting their strengths and versatility as a team. Sophomore Jamie McFarlin and senior Rebecca Parker each reached double-doubles against the Judges. McFarlin repeated the feat on Sunday, as she attained another double-double against the Violets, highlighted by a career-high 18 points. Schell also had an outstanding career-high 32 point performance against the Violets. Wash. U.'s deep bench contributed 13 and 20 points in the wins, respectively.

The Lady Bears know that they will face two extremely tough teams this weekend, both of whom are especially eager to avenge their recent defeats in St. Louis. The team cannot afford to hold anything back.

"We need to realize that they are going to be really fired up to play us," said Parker. "We have to maintain our focus to keep the edge that we had all of last weekend."

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Heart Beat

We are all well aware of the hygienic benefits of brushing and flossing our teeth. Brushing removes residue and leaves our teeth pearly white while flossing removes the bacteria and food particles between teeth to make our breath extra fresh. Add an occasional swish of mouthwash and you've got the perfect routine for good oral hygiene. These habits do a great deal to protect against cavities and gum diseases, but what you may not know is that, along with regular visits to the dentist, these habits could actually save you from developing

heart disease.

Several recent studies have established a link between periodontal disease and heart disease. Researchers at the Columbia University Medical Center say that people with gum disease are more likely to suffer from atherosclerosis, a narrowing of blood vessels that can lead to stroke or heart attack. During follow-up studies, these researchers found that people with high levels of bacteria associated with periodontal disease also had increased thickness in the carotid arteries. Other studies confirm that compared to the general population,

patients diagnosed with periodontal disease are twice as likely to suffer from coronary artery disease. So how does bacteria in the mouth affect the arteries of the heart?

We know that, at any given time, our mouths are teeming with bacteria. If these bacteria are not cleared away they accumulate in the gums and this accumulation can result in various periodontal diseases. Periodontal diseases destroy the fibers that attach your gums to your teeth. When these fibers



Brooke Genkin

wear away, gums separate from teeth and form pockets that fill with plaque; these pockets become infected and deepen as the disease progresses. Then teeth loosen and gum and bone tissue become infected, which makes it easy for bacteria to enter the bloodstream.

There are two leading theories to explain how gum disease leads to a thickening of the artery walls (atherosclerosis). The first argues that as the bacteria flow through the blood-

stream they flow through the heart and attach to the fatty plaques in the coronary arteries. If enough of these fatty plaques develop in the arteries over time, the walls of the coronary artery walls will thicken, increasing the number of blood clots. The second theory attributes the thickening of the artery walls to an inflammation of the walls that occurs when the body recognizes bacteria in its blood.

Proponents of both theories agree that the end result is a thickening of the artery walls, which obstructs normal blood flow and causes blood to clot. Clots reduce

the amount of nutrients and oxygen that reaches the heart, which inhibits the heart's ability to function properly. Over time, this decrease in capability may lead to a heart attack—which is disturbing when one considers the fact that approximately 15 percent of adults between 21 and 50 years old and 30 percent of adults over 50 have periodontal disease. So do yourself a favor and make sure to brush and floss extra well. Not only will you have fresh breath and clean teeth, but you may also be reducing your risk of heart disease.

The friend factor, part I: from friends to lovers?

I ran into a friend from my freshman floor this past fall, a guy whom I hadn't seen since the spring. We hadn't kept in touch over the summer but during my expeditions on Facebook I'd noticed some conspicuous, and quite frequent, changes in his "relationship status." Needing a spark for conversation, I brought it up.

"No, I didn't have a girlfriend," he said, "but I hooked up with a close friend and it was pretty awkward."

I nodded and commiserated with him about the summer doldrums and semi-intentional hookups are all too often the result. The situation gets even more complicated when you're living at home and hanging out with the same girls you've known since kindergarten, the ones who you hung out with in high school, only to look at them in a different way after a couple years at Wash. U.

These are the girls you may meet randomly at a keg in your childhood neighborhood or the high school friends who you go out with to grab a cup of coffee at the local strip mall. They exist at college too, friends from your old dorm or from a freshman seminar, the ones with whom you've had

loads of deep conversations, but with whom you've never hooked up.

Platonic relationships like that are great. They give you an escape from the sausage fest with no strings attached, a girl to talk to and to appreciate, without having to think about the sex factor. Friends, in the end, are just friends and they should be loved for the emotional support and for the fun times they give you, no matter the gender. In the end, it shouldn't make a difference.

But sometimes it does make a difference, whether it's your suturemates giving you crap about your cute friend down the hall (you're sure this would have ended with the K-I-S-S-I-N-G song in third grade) or her friends questioning your intentions as you chill in her common room after a party. In the world of boyfriends and girlfriends, a friend who is a girl can hardly be taken at face value.

Usually this doesn't matter to guys and they keep going in their friendships while dodging the social expectation, strengthening their emotional bonds while leaving out the physical.

Usually, it's all cool, but sometimes it isn't. That's where my friend comes in. It's true that a lot of those

female friends are attractive, wonderful people and it's that wonderfulness that gives you friends in the first place. You can slip down that slope easily, slide from the common room into the bedroom and let those personality qualities entangle with the romance, let "she's fun" turn into "she's sexy" and "let's see" should hang out" turns into "sleep in my bed" (hopefully, though, you'll be a bit smoother than that).

There's a whole school of



Ben Sales

thought on this and most people of both sexes agree that it's a pretty bad idea to let your inhibitions go and wake up the next morning with your best friend resting on your torso.

In most cases, that's probably true and odds are things won't be the same for a while after you've exposed that other side of yourself. And as for the taunting from your friends? Well, buddy, that won't stop either.

So what do you do? What do you say that next day,

when the deed is done and the line has been crossed, when the move has been made and the player has played? If it's so awkward, should you even be friends?

The answer, gentlemen, is yes. Absolutely yes. Whether or not you want to keep the romantic relationship going is another issue (and for me, another column) but if both of you recognize it as a one-night stand, as a slip on the radar that the disclaimer, then it shouldn't drive you apart. The things you found attractive that night still exist. The jokes you told, the closeness you felt, they were

all there before and they'll be there again, even if you'll probably have them over a cup of coffee, not under extra-long twin-size sheets. The friend is not just the lover and the friendship is not the hookup. Your relationship is bigger than that and stronger than the events of a weekend night.

Still, a word of warning. If you do have another late night hangout after a party: try to keep it in the common room. Even if you find yourselves alone, the RedLine couches are too uncomfortable for anything to happen.

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STUDENT LIFE

The exciting and scary world of consumerism

BY INDU CHANDRASEKHAR
SCENE REPORTER

While I cannot speak for the rest of the Washington University student body, I can personally say that if I were a child, I would brush my teeth at least four times a day if I had a Tooth Tunes singing toothbrush. Sadly, those childhood days have passed for me. It makes me wonder, how much better would my singing be if I had Jesse McCartney's "Beautiful Soul" pulsing through my teeth to my inner ear? And let's not forget the eternal hits of the Village People's "Y.M.C.A.," Destiny's Child's "Survivor," and one of my personal favorites, Hillary Duff's "Wake Up."

The Tooth Tunes toothbrush is just one of many irresistible, but mostly pointless, bits of gadgetry available for the eternally bored Ameri-

can consumer and I have to say—those inventors really know no bounds.

Take the Nosevac No Hair Left Behind Nose Hair Trimmer. This handy doodad addresses a concern many of us face: what terrible things could beathred-in nose hairs do to our lungs? This mini-vacuum sucks the fear, and the loose hair, right out of your worried nose.

The true Mecca of bizarre products, of course, is SkyMall. Not only do they carry ear and nose hair trimmers that look like pens, they also proffer hundreds of other little tools you never knew you needed but must have once you discover them, like the Cold Sore Inhibitor that uses special beta waves to stop viral attacks.

Then there are body mints, pills that eliminate unpleasant odors from the mouth, feet and those unfriendly armpits.

Also available is the Toothbrush/Kazor UV Sanitizer, a machine that taps away those leftover germs and whatever else might be lurking in these bathroom necessities.

Not to be forgotten, the Sky-Mail catalog addresses those oft-neglected appendages, feet. The Soapy Soles 3-in-1 Foot Washer comes out the winner in my book, offering a spa-like massage from a purple suction-cup piece of plastic with three kinds of bristles. Also for the feet: TravelBox, the solution for those swollen, restless legs that attach themselves to your body every time you go for a long trip. The socks put compression on your feet, which is said to increase circulation.

Personal hygiene isn't the only thing you can obsess over—there are products out there that target virtually every type of body-image con-

sciousness. One that stood out to me was Scientific World's Best Memory Foam Seat Cushion. This is no mere cushion; if sat on regularly for three months, this cushion is proven to reshape your butt with its "bottom reformulator." Someone lend me \$29.95, please!

With the easy availability of these products and the comical seriousness of their product listings, one has to wonder how many of these products are purchased as show-stopping gag gifts and how many of those gifts were then used, in secret or with coercion.

Reviewing Sharper Image, Gadget Universe and SkyMall's intense collections on a recent plane ride, I found within myself a longing to visit Sharper Image and act like every one of their customers, poking every odd object on the shelves with a suspended look of disbelief. Do any of these things actu-



Sales associate Jasmine Kimbrough restocks the Campus Bookstore on Thursday, Feb. 1. American consumerism includes a wide variety of products.

ally work? And would the quality of my life really improve if my butt were reformulated according to the standards of

Scientific World? I suspect the answer would be no. But if you know anyone with \$29.95 to spare, let me know.

Stepping Out

Boogaloo
7344 Manchester Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 645-4803

BY ALEXA NATHANSON
AND MARGOT DANKNER
SCENE REPORTERS

Boogaloo sounded like it would be a great place to spend a Friday night with a bunch of friends. Not only does it serve creative Creole-Caribbean fusion tapas, like curried chickpea hummus with Jamaican bread and plantain croquettes with tomato cilantro vinaigrette, it also sports swings at the bar instead of traditional bar stools. Good food on swings? We couldn't wait.

As we walked into the main dining room, lined with

Rating:



lizard skin padded walls and abstract paintings, we were shocked to see the Maplewood restaurant buzzing with suburban St. Louis socialites. Even at 6:30 p.m., the bar was literally swinging, with nary a suspended seat in our stationary chairs at our unmoving table, we wistfully stared up at the swingers as the waitress hastily handed out our menus.

Disappointed but still looking forward to the food, we ordered drinks from the extensive list of cocktails (which happened to have no prices listed) and began

to negotiate the sharing of dishes. Though tapas are most prominently featured on the menu, there are several entrees, sandwiches and sides available as well.

Waiting for our server to take our order, we sipped our drinks and chatted over the loud music. When she finally arrived nearly 45 minutes later, our drinks were gone and we were starving for something to nibble on.

Fortunately, our food came not too long after we gave our orders and we were quickly sated with a plate of fried alligator served with a smoky chipotle aioli, seared wasabi

pea coated ahi tuna and brazil nut encrusted manchego cheese with a peppery romesco sauce. The winner of the three was the manchego, a sharp sheep's milk cheese from Spain that at Boogaloo was deliciously fried to a gooey creaminess that was pleasantly punctuated by the crunch of the brazil nuts and the tang of the romesco. The alligator was tasty, but so deeply breaded and fried that it was difficult to distinguish from standard chicken fingers and though the ahi tuna was of good quality, barely a trace of the Japanese horseradish was detectable on its seared exterior.

Ropa vieja and garlic mojo chicken were knockout entrees, however, both cooked perfectly and smartly paired with complementing sides. The ropa vieja (or old clothes in Spanish) was an expertly braised flank steak that fell apart at the touch of a fork and sat beautifully atop a mound of saffron-infused rice. Grilled on the bone, the chicken was extremely juicy with a nicely crisp exterior

that contrasted well with the sharp citrus notes of an orange picama slaw drizzled with key lime. But even this dish was not without fault; plantains served alongside were tough and rubbery.

A decent vegetarian Cuban sandwich was lifted by the addition of absolutely delicious French fries and a mahi mahi special of the night was cooked well and augmented by a luxuriously creamy coconut milk infused lobster risotto.

Meanwhile, nearly yelling over our food to be heard above the noise level in the restaurant had risen to almost dangerous levels since our appetizers had arrived, we perused the dessert menu. Though we were tired, hoarse and a bit too warm, the combined body heat of the masses within the restaurant was so intense it forced two of our diners to step outside and cool off, the sweet confessions of Boogaloo looked too good to turn down.

Brioche bread pudding with Kentucky bourbon sauce was hands down the best any

of us had ever tried. Piping hot, the soft egg bread melted almost instantly upon impact with the tongue and the sweet, silky caramel bourbon sauce was so buttery and delicious that one within our party actually drank it out of the bowl.

Kahlua chocolate torte received good reviews as well and a friend almost cried when a server, thinking she was done, took her half-eaten cake away while she wasn't looking.

By the end of the night we were full and tired, had headaches and were fed up with the slow service. The bar remained completely crowded the entire night and we didn't even get a chance to sit on one of the swings. Going through the bar to the bathroom was another challenge and most of us were accidentally pushed or hit by someone while trying to make it through. Our Friday night became one of just decent food and stationary seats—nothing close to the swinging time we'd expected from Boogaloo.

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Sudoku By Michael Mepharm

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

Level: **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For challenges on how to solve Sudokus, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

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ACROSS

- Room at the top
- Objectives
- Ridicule
- Equality grp.
- Retarding force
- Stratford's river
- Lab class assignment
- Philosopher
- Despatches
- Desired object
- Loathsome
- Mournful song
- Momentary work
- Intellectual
- Profoundly disturbing
- Surround completely
- Carver's tool
- Beffuddlement
- Turn sharply
- Makes known
- Fragrant spray
- Storm center
- Rice wine
- Soviet dictator
- Household
- Circumvent
- Beach
- Bathhouse
- Shift options
- Have life
- Sound like a rooster
- Send off
- Natural fuzz
- Easy as ABC
- Front balcony
- Slingsang
- Engaged in battle
- Warning sign
- Once — a time...
- Waffled

DOWN

- Freshly
- Metered vehicle
- Lights out!
- Refrigerator precursor
- ER! lifesaving action
- Crop up at
- Shamrock nation

8 Thick head of hair

9 E. Bilko, e.g.

10 Of the sea

11 Out in the open

12 Line dance

13 Prepare to propose

14 golfs now!

22 Mill. runaway

24 Agreeable

25 Hedged

26 Parcel of land

27 Miss Muffet died item

28 Basketball team

30 Beret or berrita

32 Andes grazer

34 Bantu language

35 In the center of

36 Hereditary unit

40 Hit into slopes

40 Artificial male voice

43 Spanish painter born on Crete

45 Attach firmly

Solutions

3	N	U	O	B	N	O	A	N	E	W	O
8	Y	M	I	V	E	V	O	I	A	E	O
11	A	Y	I	N	E	W	H	I	N	I	N
12	I	T	W	E	M	O	H	O	E	S	I
13	S	O	N	I	N	G	I	N	G	O	
22	S	O	N	I	N	G	I	N	G	O	
24	N	I	L	I	V	E	S	B	Y	S	
25	N	A	G	R	E	E	B	L	E		
26	P	A	R	C	E	L					
27	M	I	S	S							
28	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L	E
30	B	E	R	E	T						
32	A	N	D	E	S						
34	B	A	N	T							
35	C	E	N	T	E	R					
36	H	E	R	E	D	I	T	A	R	I	T
40	H	I	T								
40	A	R	T	I	F	I	C	I	A	L	
43	S	P	A	N	I	S	H				
45	A	T	T	A	C	H					

SCENE

A Twist on Tradition

BY REBECCA ROTHERBERG
SCENE REPORTER

As I watch a group of giggling pre-teens gossip in the corner of a ballroom that has been generously rented out by adults, the phrase "coming of age" does not really cross my mind. When the DJ invites the crowd to cheer for the Bat Mitzvah, it finally hits me that we are there to celebrate the transformation of this girl into a young woman.

Though it might be shocking when we take a look at the way our own western culture views adulthood, in the Jewish tradition one "comes of age" at thirteen years of age when boys celebrate a Bar Mitzvah and girls a Bat Mitzvah.

Not just the Jewish religion considers its youth "adults" when they reach their early teenage years, though.

"In the Mexican culture, girls are presented to the world through the Quinceañera ceremony," explained Susana San Roman, a sophomore from Mexico City.

Much like a Bar or Bat Mitzvah party, the Quinceañera is a large, formal event for family and friends when a Mexican girl turns 15.

Unlike in the Jewish religion, however, this ritual pertains only to females, as the ceremony signifies that the young woman is ready to be a prospect for marriage.

Susana explained that in rural areas of Mexico, girls generally get

married between the ages of 13 and 18. These women lack the education and funding needed for adequate birth control and sexual education and typically have children right away to support their families.

Still, in most modern places, Latin American girls and boys are treated as adults when they assimilate into modern society at age 18. Being considered an adult at thirteen does sound a bit odd, though, considering most don't enter college until eighteen and the average lifespan is now about 65 years for men and 70 years for women. These customs make sense considering that many years ago most people did not live much past middle age and fifteen was an appropriate age to get married.

Not all ancient traditions are as advocative of early independence, though. Freshman Amirah Ahmed has been raised Muslim and according to the Islamic religion, females don't "come of age" until they are married.

Aggravated by the fact that her brother, Ayman, will be technically considered an adult at 18 once he enters college, Amirah explained that she is expected to return home to live with her parents after college if she is not married. Only through matrimony are women granted independence in the Islamic culture, while men are freed at 18.

Luckily, Amirah muses, she is a pre-med and will be in school for



Jewish boys have Bar Mitzvahs and girls have Bat Mitzvahs when they turn thirteen. The ritual signifies a youth's entry into adulthood and Jews usually begin studying for the ceremony a year or more in advance.

so long that she will probably be married by the time she graduates anyway.

Amirah has a sense of humor about her situation, but knows how lucky she is that she has this opportunity to go to college and assert her

independence. Only about 5 percent of more modern Muslims allow females to "come of age" at 21 and live on their own. The rest of the culture still holds fast to ancient tradition, even the ones living in America. Interestingly, these generational discrepancies don't just hold true in families with foreign parents. Because there really is no set age nowadays for becoming an adult, conflicts can arise. For instance, a 16-year-old might be ecstatic about getting his license, assuming a new car will be his ticket to freedom, but his mother might not think he is old enough to be on the road alone.

Susan Stritz, a professor of women and gender studies here at Washington University, has a fascinating take on coming of age in Western society.

"Becoming a sexually aware, sexually satisfied human being is a significant part of what the transformation into adulthood is all about. However, our society really has no explicit rules regarding how to become successful sexual adults. Unlike more traditional, more static cultures, our scripts for sexual behavior change rapidly," explained Stritz. "When society gives no specific age or time period for when or how to become a sexual creature, most adolescents grow up trying to guess what is sexually appropriate for them and having no idea. Meanwhile, media images give them inaccurate portrayals of sexual experience."

While there are those who have had serious relationships before the

end of high school, there are others who are still virgins by the end of college.

Stritz continued by adding that though there are specific events in a young adult's life that can signify the transition into adulthood, such as a girl getting her period or buying her first bra, or a boy receiving a pack of condoms, it is the ambiguity that makes it easy for mystification to block a young woman's ability to analyze the gender hierarchy and her subordinate positioning within it. This just continues supporting the status quo.

Women's studies is a kind of rite of passage for many young women who chose to consciously raise their awareness about what it means to become a woman at this point in time in this culture," added Stritz.

In our modern society, what age is really appropriate to be considered an adult? While 70 percent of Washington University students polled at random believe that 18 is an appropriate age to be considered an adult in our society today, there are more and more people who continue to live off of their parents' funding after college and well into their 20s and 30s.

Between America's mixing bowl of cultural backgrounds, gender hierarchy, and mystification with sexual maturity, it is no wonder that one specific year has not yet coined the term "coming of age."



Ana Delia Fierros arranges the gift and cake table for her Quinceañera in Kansas City, Mo. in 2005.

WORD ON THE
STREET

When do you feel you 'came of age'?

-Compiled by Erin Fufts



"Leadership positions in high school. Knowing that your decisions will affect the actions of a large group of people made me feel more responsible"

-Thomas Stevens, freshman



"I still don't feel like I'm an adult. I'm not quite to the serious period in my life yet."

-Sarah Fox, sophomore



"Going to college and just being away from home."

-Chris Harris, sophomore



"It's not just one event, it's a process. It happens slowly and gradually throughout your life. College, surely, but it's just one event along the way. Whatever it is, it has to make a difference to your maturity."

-Farhan Majid, senior