

STUDENT LIFE

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS SINCE 1878



WU sports are back breaking records! This time, junior Delaina Martin broke the school record in the weight throw. **Page 4.**

We published it; you caught our faux pas. See Forum for the Editorial Board's retraction of Friday's notorious piece. **Page 6.**

Which side of the divide are you on: singles or couples? Whichever affiliation you choose, Scene's got you covered. **Page 7.**

Into the Facebook? Check out Scene's in-depth coverage of this social networking phenomenon. See **Page 10.**

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WWW.STUDLIFE.COM

Tulane students adjust after Katrina

By Margy Levinson
Associate Reporter

As spring semester gets off to a normal start for Washington University students, students at Tulane University are just beginning to get reacquainted with their campus after the Hurricane Katrina disaster last fall.

According to Tulane's Web site, the university's "renewal plan" consists of such goals as "strengthening its commit-

ment to building a world-class educational and research institution" and "implementing measures to ensure the university's financial stability."

According to student Stephen Frapart, a freshman who spent his first semester at Washington University, Tulane expected only about 60-70 percent of students to return but in fact received something closer to a 90 percent return rate.

Freshmen such as Frapart had to go through an orienta-

tion program similar to the one planned for last fall.

"[It was] essentially the same orientation they had pre-Katrina, but we never got to experience it," said Frapart. "There was a lot of getting to know people at college."

All students were also given the opportunity to participate in a student-wide community service project that consisted of helping damaged parts of New Orleans.

"Last Saturday they had this thing called 'Outreach New Or-

leans' [where about] 3,000 or 6,000 college students [including] 3,000 Tulane [students] volunteered in the New Orleans community," said Frapart.

Frapart described his experience in the Lower Ninth Ward, the most devastated part of New Orleans.

"[It was] the hardest hit by Katrina," said Frapart. "[It was] 17 feet underwater during the storm. We were assigned to a house, and we cleaned everything out...It was unbelievable; everything was damaged."

Junior Mike Mullen, who also spent last semester at Washington University, has similarly noticed more community awareness around the Tulane campus.

"People are trying to help the city," he said.

Mullen also said that a lot of extracurricular activities have become more focused on the effects of the Katrina disaster.

"The focus of a lot of the groups has changed a lot, probably for the better," said Mullen. "I feel like a lot more

kids are involved now."

Tulane's campus and housing for its students have also undergone changes. This semester, for example, members of the Tulane community will be living on a cruise ship.

"The cruise ship is only for people over the age of 21, for upperclassmen and for faculty from off-campus housing that was unsalvageable from the storm," said Frapart.

Mullen, who hasn't been on

See TULANE STUDENTS, page 3

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IS FAN-TASTIC



ALWYN LOH | STUDENT LIFE

Fan dancers perform at the Lunar New Year Festival on Saturday night in Edison Theater. LNYF, a celebration of the Chinese and Korean New Years, focused this year on bringing in the "Year of the Dog."

Graduate art 'Off Course' at Baseline Gallery

By Kristin McGrath
Senior News Editor

Fire hydrants, a canvas covered in sanitary napkins and a portrait of a Klondike Bar's last moments awaited visitors of the Baseline Gallery downtown this weekend.

Created by Washington University graduate students of various disciplines, these were just some of the works displayed for "Off Course," an art exhibition that opened Saturday night and that will continue this week.

Khena Swallow, a graduate student in psychology, attended the exhibition to see a friend's piece.

"Oftentimes, other hobbies are hard to keep up with

when you're concentrating on research," said Swallow. "It's interesting to see things that people do in addition to their research and it's important to support that."

For Mitch Bloomquist, a graduate student in architecture, building his wooden floor lamp for the exhibition presented a unique opportunity.

"Since architecture can't always be built, this was a chance for me to build something at a smaller scale at a low cost," said Bloomquist. "It was interesting just being able to create one of my designs."

In addition to providing him with a rewarding opportunity, the exhibition presents rewarding potential for the University

See GRADUATE ART, page 3



DAVID HARTSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE

Snail Scott, a graduate student in art, examines "Dianita," a sculpture by Blaine Maley. Scott had two entries on display at the exhibition.

Donating seven drops can save a life

By Jon Bremer
Contributing Reporter

Registering as a bone marrow donor has never been easier, as students will find during this year's registration drive.

The Washington University Marrow Registry (WUMR), the student group that organizes the annual event, will cover all costs for students for the first time in its four-year history.

The drive will be held to-

day and tomorrow in Friedman Lounge from 4-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Lopata Gallery and the undergraduate lounge in Simon Hall.

This year, WUMR has worked with sponsors to make the drive free for everyone for the first time in WUMR's history.

Previously, donors had to pay \$65 to join the registry, a cost that covered the complex tests necessary to determine bone marrow type.

The group has also worked to alleviate students' fears about marrow donation.

"I know how students approach this and why they are afraid of it and I want to attack it from that angle," said Brayden Yellman, president of WUMR. "The more publicity we get the better. The more people who know about it the better, even if you are afraid of needles. You can always encourage your friends to do it. Sometimes it is helpful to have

some peer pressure so you can all do it together."

Although a needle is one way of obtaining a blood sample, a finger prick is also an option, since only seven drops are required for testing. The samples are tested for the six antibodies that determine your bone marrow type.

After the marrow has been typed, the donor's name is added to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)

See BONE MARROW, page 4

Mallinckrodt Asian Concept opens to lukewarm reviews

By Ben Sales
Staff Reporter

Since opening at the beginning of the semester as a replacement for Taco Bell, the Asian Concept at the Mallinckrodt food court has received a lukewarm response from its customers.

"I liked the wok," said freshman Alex Haas, referring to the dishes served straight off the fire by the chefs, "but the ready-made stuff was kind of gross."

For the most part, students echoed Haas's critique. Several called the food "pretty good," while mentioning the wok in particular as a positive.

"The [ready-made] chicken was not that good," said freshman Eva Choi. She added, however, "I heard the Pho [served hot] is good."

Senior Blake Abrash held different views about the Concept's quality.

"I thought it was detestable," he said. "It was dry and rubbery and the meat is awful."

The Asian Concept, however, does not seem to be losing business due to the negative reviews. The lines have remained long since the stand's opening and most students said they plan on returning, albeit with a more selective eye. Some students even cited the crowds as a reason for avoiding the new option.

"There is always a long line," said Jesus Figueroa, a freshman who has yet to try the food.

Senior Lindsey Brodell agreed and added, "They make the wrap line look short."

Officials from Bon Appétit, the company that manages dining services on campus, see no problem with the food, citing the good business as proof of the stand's popularity.

"It's been very busy at that station," said Marilyn Pollack, Bon Appétit's interim director of Dining Services. "It's seen a lot of customer traffic."

Director of Operations Rick Turner echoed these sentiments, and pointed out that the food was the students' choice.

"We took a poll among the students," he said. "The overwhelming result of that survey was that the students wanted Asian food,

so we picked Asian food. We've had a pretty successful opening."

Students, when asked, did say that they enjoyed the Asian alternative, but some would prefer another franchise to replace Taco Bell.

"They should have a Panda Express," said Haas.

"There was a time element," said Turner, responding to the call for fast food. "We only had a certain amount of time to place a new concept."

Turner added that there were limitations of "space and equipment" that prevented Bon Appétit from looking into a corporate option.

Turner also said that, although Bon Appétit staff chose the menu, they weighed their options based on the students' survey results.

"We chose the menu with some basic items: beef, broccoli, and sesame chicken," said Turner. "We also tried to do some authentic options. We tried to give the best variety based on the space and the students...That was our decision, but the survey pointed us. It was looking for Panda Express-type food."

Abrash, however, specifically noted Bon Appétit's management of the Concept as a cause for criticism.

"I knew it would be bad when they replaced Taco Bell because it was Bon Appétit," he said. "[It was] just the general feel of it."

Most students, by contrast, prefer the Asian Concept over the departed Taco Bell, including junior Debra Siegel.

"I do not eat meat, so it was better than Taco Bell," she said. "It was decent."

Students also reacted positively to the service at the new stand.

"I like the way that it was set up. The lines can be long, but the people are very nice," said sophomore Paromita De.

Turner said that, taking everything into account, he is happy with the Asian Concept and expects improvement in the future.

"We have not heard a lot of criticism," he said. "We are always looking for customer feedback. We base a lot of our decisions on the students. We can change."



CAROLYN GOLDSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE

Bon Appétit's new Asian station has replaced Taco Bell in the Mallinckrodt Food Court. The new option has been busy, but has been receiving mixed reviews from students.

STUDENT LIFE

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NATIONAL

Most college students affected by sexual harassment

Nearly two-thirds of college students have been sexually harassed on U.S. campuses, according to a study released Tuesday by the American Association of University Women. Harassment includes anything from inappropriate touching to offensive jokes and gestures. The study found that 62 percent of students have experienced harassment, 32 percent have been victims and 41 percent have been the harassers. Men and women are equally likely to be harassed, but men are more likely to harass women. Most students—more than 90 percent—however, don't report these incidents to school officials, despite feelings of helplessness and disgust. The survey polled more than 2,000 students ages 18 to 24.

Battle brewing over use of "12th Man" moniker

Texas A&M school officials are raising concerns regarding the Seattle Seahawks' reference to its fans as the "12th Man," a tradition the Aggies started in the 1920s. The debate has risen in light of the Seahawks' appearance in the Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers this coming Sunday. A&M has registered trademarks for the label, but Seattle claims the organization itself hasn't ripped the phrase. Rather, the team said it only raises a flag with the number 12 on it with no reference to a 12th man. The University hopes not to go to trial, saying it would be a last resort. This is not the first time A&M has had a dispute over the label, as it asked the Chicago Bears and Buffalo Bills to stop their "12th Man" campaigns before.

Challenger anniversary reveals memory phenomenon

The anniversary of the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle has revealed that oftentimes people's memories of this defining historical moment are embellished and inaccurate.

On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle exploded only a minute after it was launched, killing all seven astronauts and impressing traumatic memories upon an entire generation. Yet research has found that many of the "flashbulb" memories concerning details of the explosion tend to be false, regardless of how vivid they are. Flashbulb memories evolve when the significance of an event causes everyone to talk about it, and the constant retelling of the story embellishes the memory.

In an experiment in which Emory University professors asked students to describe their experience the day after the Challenger explosion and then asked the same thing a few years later, they found that fewer than 10 percent could match their earlier memory perfectly.

"Vividness and accuracy need to be separated," said Washington University cultural psychologist James Wertsch, in a St. Louis Post-Dispatch article on Jan. 27. Wertsch believes that the Challenger explosion became a flashbulb memory for this generation because it disrupted the national narrative, proving that the United States was not always on top and exposing the scary side of space to children.

Conservative activist retracts rewards from campaign

Andrew Jones, leader of a program to expose "radical" professors at the University of California, Los Angeles, removed a \$100 incentive to students who provided such evidence. The original campaign paid students who supplied tapes and notes from class suggesting that professors were pushing their liberal views on students. Upon details of the payment plan becoming public, several of the organization's board members resigned, including a former congressman and Los Angeles radio talk show host Al Rantel. Jones will now continue the campaign with unpaid volunteers. But UCLA, accusing Jones of leading a "witchhunt," said that aside from the money, the distribution of course materials without permission by the professor and campus chancellor was illegal.

LOCAL

Council attempts to count the 'invisible homeless' of suburbia

The Community Council of St. Charles County will attempt to determine the homeless population in the suburban counties of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren on Tuesday. That night, volunteers will search these areas to find homeless individuals and families.

Officials suspect that the homeless population of Missouri's suburbs is growing. Exact numbers, however, are difficult to determine, as the homeless in suburbia are often employed and seek shelter in friends' homes and in motels and are thus able to blend in better than the more visible homeless population in cities.

Last year, volunteers of the Community Council counted 376 homeless people.

CAMPUS

New collaboration to fight childhood diseases

St. Louis Children's Hospital and the Washington University's School of Medicine announced the launching of a new Children's Discovery Institute on Wednesday. The Institute aims to accelerate the cures for child illnesses by incorporating the work of the Human Genome Project.

This \$355 million project will target four types of childhood diseases: congenital heart disease, cancer, lung/respiratory disorders and muscle and skeletal diseases. Washington University served as a center for the Human Genome Project, which identified all of the genes in human DNA, and the knowledge to be gained from this endeavor did not stop with its completion.

Advances in the realms of genetic sequencing, computer technology and nanotechnology—creating and manipulating materials at their smallest levels—can be focused on childhood diseases. For example, a brain cancer patient's genes could be compared to those of hundreds of cancer-free children in order to locate the mutation, which could give rise to new cancer therapies. Although new cures could still be many years away, founders of the new Institute hope to incorporate individuals from many different disciplines in order to find the best treatments.

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New Policy Regarding Student I.D. Cards:

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, students will be required to present a Washington University Student I.D. Card to purchase a meal. **You will no longer be able to purchase a meal without your I.D. Card or cash.**

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GRADUATE ART ❖ FROM PAGE 1



DAVID HARTSTEIN | STUDENT LIFE

Mitch Bloomquist, a graduate student in architecture, stands beside his floor lamp at Saturday night's exhibition at the Baseline Gallery.

community as well.

"[Baseline Gallery] is owned by a Wash. U. alum," said Bloomquist. "This is a good opportunity for an alum to bring the community together. It's interaction among the greater Wash. U. community and there should be more of it."

Under the archway connecting the gallery's two rooms, Jessica Baran had set up her piece, two towers of blocks that incorporated her area of study, poetry. Baran had begun the project for a class that required her to reconstruct the house from the Alfred Hitchcock film, "Psycho." Although that endeavor "ended up as a failure," Baran began to write a poem inspired by "Psycho." She then affixed the text from her poem to the surface of the blocks in addition to images of a drain imprinted on paper that she had made out of grocery bags.

"I'm so pleased to have

people from my program interacting with people from other programs," said Baran. "I also like the aspect of the downtown space. Sometimes, I think that people can become kind of Wash. U. campus-centric."

Corey Gill and Jennifer Gill, both medical students, found the inspiration for their piece in the African country of Malawi, where they took part in a pediatric malnutrition project. Their photograph, "Little Warriors," depicts three boys wearing headresses and skirts made of leaves.

The photo, Corey feels, captures the "resourceful" attitude he saw in the people of Malawi.

"The people there were amazing," he said. "They're poor and have very little resources, but they're incredibly warm and positive. If some kids don't have a soccer ball, they'll make one out of twine and plastic bags."

Survey says:

Ratemyprofs 'hot,' evals not

By Marla Friedman
Associate Reporter

Washington University's course evaluations can warn students about the workload in a course—but if a student wants to find out if a professor is "hot" or not, ratemyprofessors.com is the place to go.

University course evaluations and ratemyprofessors.com are two leading resources students can use to offer feedback on classes and professors and to check other students' reviews before signing up for a course.

For the third semester in a row, Arts and Sciences has had a 70 percent participation rate for online and paper course evaluations.

"I think the most important thing that is accomplished is feedback for tenure review cases, feedback to the administration to know that professors are doing a good job teaching," said Dean Henry Biggs. "Something that is a close second is providing as much feedback to students so that they can make an accurate assessment of their classes."

Ratemyprofessors.com is a popular public Internet grading site students can use to post comments about their professors and evaluate them on a one-to-five rating scale, scoring them on easiness, helpfulness, clarity and rater interest.

Raters can also stipulate if they believe their professor is "hot." If so, a chili pepper will appear next to the professor's name in the ratings. As of last night, the site has ratings for 785 University professors.

Biggs believes that course evaluations are much more reliable than ratemyprofessors.com.

"The problem [with ratemyprofessors.com] is that there is one to two percent participation. There are teachers who teach biology who have 500 students in the class, have taught for 15 years and have six comments," said Biggs. "Also, anybody can go on there—if you didn't take the class, or if you are the professor and you'd like to pump up your ratings."

Mark Alford, an assistant professor of physics, also favors the University's evaluations because they distinguish between different courses.

"A professor might do a good job on senior-level courses but be less suited

to freshman classes," said Alford. "On ratemyprofessors.com, you can't tell why there is a mixture of good and bad comments. The University evaluations database can't be abused in this way."

Professor Jami Ake, a lecturer in the humanities, believes that the Web site does not provide enough substance for students at this university.

"I think actually ratemyprofessors.com kind of underestimates Wash. U. students in some ways," said Ake. "Sure, everybody wants a really exciting, engaged professor; everybody wants clarity and wants to know how hard a grader a person is, but I think Wash. U. students actually want more than that. Wash. U. students want more than to be entertained."

Despite the relative benefits of course evaluations over ratemyprofessors.com, Biggs also suggested that there are some perks to the site.

"The one thing that I think is attractive about ratemyprofessor is text comments," said Biggs. "They are not given to students on course evaluations—it's a difficult situation because it would be great if you could release the comments, but unfortunately there are a few students who really say personal, hurtful, obscene things, so the solution to that would be that we would just edit those comments. But you don't want to be editing comments, so the comments are not available to everyone," said Biggs.

Many students are skeptical about University course evaluations. Archana Eniasivam, a junior biology major, questions their effectiveness.

"You do the evaluations and idealistically you hope they will change the things that are wrong with the class, but in reality I'm not quite sure," said Eniasivam. "It's hard to know because you're already done with the class when you fill out the evaluation."

Emily Boardman, a freshman majoring in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, also worries about the usefulness of the evaluations.

"I would not have filled the course evaluations out had I not been given point incentives by my instructors," said Boardman. "I don't have very much faith that they are effective," she said.

Nick Mulvihill, a sophomore majoring in entrepreneurship and marketing, feels that incentives offered by the professor might skew the types of comments on course evaluations.

"For courses like psychology, you

will get an extra point if you fill out the evaluations whereas on ratemyprofessors.com, everyone filling it out is doing it because they want to do it," said Mulvihill. "It's people's more honest opinions, not people who are being bribed to fill out an evaluation."

Dean Biggs responded to these worries by assuring students that their comments do in fact affect professors.

"I think the frustrating part is that the process in all universities is slow and somebody who is not good is given every chance to try and improve themselves," said Biggs. "So when you have four years at school, and the process is going to take six to seven years, you don't see the resolution in your time. But I can assure you that they matter," he said.

Biggs also explained that there is a new system in place where professors can check their rating and compare them to the average in the professor's department.

"I know that administrators are looking at those averages and it gives them a much better sense than they've ever had before of where professors stand relative to the whole intellectual community and relative to their department, so that they can make improvements or not," said Biggs.

Although he is hesitant about evaluations, Mulvihill is aware that some professors do change based on student comments.

"I've been in a few classes where halfway through the class the teacher will give out an evaluation, look at the results and start showing more videos in class, giving less lecture, giving less homework, just doing things where they have made some changes," said Mulvihill.

Both the University's evaluations and ratemyprofessors.com might have something to offer, depending on a student's expectations while looking for courses, said Ake.

"If you want a course that's fun but you have no guarantees that anything else major is going to happen, take a look at the categories they have on ratemyprofessors.com, and that's what you can expect," said Ake. "If you want something that's going to push you, challenge you, that might not always be fun but you might learn something that's going to change you, you might want to consider the evaluations we have."

TULANE STUDENTS ❖ FROM PAGE 1

the cruise ship himself, does have a few friends who have been living on it.

"I haven't really heard much about it," said Mullen. "They don't have drinking water, cell phone service or the Internet. It sounds like it sucks to me."

Still, Mullen seemed to think that an altered living condition was one of the only negative changes about students' lives at Tulane.

"All the landscaping and grass is dead, [but] other than

that I feel like campus is just as busy as it was before," said Mullen.

He added, "Everyone is really excited to be back. There is a lot of activity on campus."

Although Mullen is happy to be back at Tulane, he does still take pride in his semester at Wash. U.

"I had a good semester," said Mullen. "I made a lot of really good friends that were hard to leave behind, but I am really happy to be back at Tu-

lane...Washington University was really accommodating."

According to Steven Ehrlich, associate dean for University College's undergraduate and special programs, the University took in about 90 students—70 undergraduates and 20 graduate students.

Of those who were considered "visiting students," three were admitted as transfer students.

In December, three other students were still awaiting

an offer of admission pending first semester grades, and one other student was admitted to the University but decided to return to Tulane. Among these transfer students are one sophomore and several freshmen and juniors.

"[The students] were viewed in the same general criteria that any other transfer would be," said Ehrlich.

Mullen and Frapart had different experiences when attempting to transfer credits

they earned here.

"I actually took all the classes I would have taken at the architecture school [at Tulane]," said Mullen. "I'm not behind at all."

In fact, Mullen's situation has actually worked to his advantage.

"I'm actually going to be ahead because they are offering a summer semester for free for anyone who paid tuition for both semesters," said Mullen.

Frapart has also had few difficulties.

"It turns out that [the Spanish class I signed up for at Tulane] was the same one I took at Wash. U., [and] once I figured out it was the same class I had to scramble to find the right class," said Frapart.

Overall, though, Frapart is happy to be back at Tulane.

"After two days at Tulane I just picked up and I think I'm really settled here," said Frapart.

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SPORTS

IN BRIEF: The Washington University men's basketball team upset the University of Rochester on Friday night 67-62 but lost to No. 14 Carnegie Mellon 86-80 on Sunday. The women's track and field teams won the Rose-Hulman Quad and the Illinois College Early Bird meets, while the men's team placed third in both events.

Men's b-ball falls to 13-5 on season following tough UAA weekend battles

By Andrei Berman
Sports Reporter

The Washington University men's basketball team escaped a late University of Rochester comeback bid and held on to defeat the Yellow Jackets 67-62 before a sizable crowd at the Washington University Field House Friday night.

On the backs of senior Scott Stone's sharp outside shooting and tough inside play by sophomore Troy Ruths, the 13-5 Bears knocked off the defending University Athletic Association (UAA) champions and last year's national runner-up.

Rochester hung tight with the Bears early, trailing just 31-28 with 2:30 remaining in the first half. The University then went on an 11-2 scoring burst over the final 2:05 and took a 42-30 lead into the locker room.

The run was capped by a Mike Grunst three-point play with just two seconds remaining on the clock. The seven-foot senior center put back his own miss and was fouled in the process, giving the Bears momentum heading into the second half.

The University opened the second half just where it had left off. The Bears went on a 9-2 run over the first 3:30 to take what seemed to be a commanding 51-34 lead.

Rochester battled back, however, taking advantage of a stagnant University offense and cutting the lead to 57-48 with seven minutes to go. The teams traded baskets over the next few minutes, with the lead fluctuating only minimally.

Then, over a stretch of just over two minutes, Rochester guard Mike Goia lit up the University defense, scoring the Yellow Jackets' next eleven points and cutting the Bears' lead down to four at 63-59.

Rochester narrowed the lead down to three, with 50 seconds to go, but tremendous free-throw shooting by the Bears down the stretch solidified the hard-earned win.

The University shot a lights-out 87 percent from the charity stripe, going 21-of-24 on the night and a perfect eight-for-eight over the final five minutes.

Ruths finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds on the night, while Stone added 21 points of his own, includ-

ing an impressive yet characteristic five-for-11 from three-point land. He also added five assists. Grunst chipped in with 13 points.

The Red Alert-led crowd remained on its feet for much of the second half, giving the game a big-time feel and making things difficult for Rochester throughout the evening. The win brought the Bears' record to 13-4 overall and 5-1 in conference play. Rochester fell to 12-5 overall and 3-3 in the UAA.

Unfortunately, the University failed to carry momentum into Sunday's afternoon tilt with the No. 14 nationally-ranked Tartans of Carnegie Mellon University. CMU had four players score more than 14 points, en route to a key league victory, 86-80.

Perhaps frustrated with themselves after Friday's upset loss at the hands of the University of Chicago, the Tartans, which earlier this season shocked the college basketball world by beating Division I Princeton University, opened the game clicking on all cylinders.

After an even first few minutes, CMU rattled off 12 unanswered points and eventually went into half-

time with a 46-33 lead.

The Bears managed to cut the lead late in the second half, narrowing the deficit all the way down to two (78-76) with just over three minutes to play. The Tartans proved too tough on this day, however, as A.J. Straub answered with a three and CMU came away from the Field House with a huge league win.

Ruths led four Bears in double figures, scoring a career high 27 points to go along with 11 rebounds. Junior point guard Neal Griffin also had a career day, scoring 13 points. Stone also had 13 with freshman Tyler Nading adding 11 to pace the University.

Had the University won, it would have found itself alone in first place in the highly-competitive UAA. With the loss, though, the Bears fell to 5-2 in league play and remain tied with the Tartans, as well as New York University in first place.

The University, which dropped to 13-5 overall with the loss, has a chance to avenge Sunday's loss next Friday when it faces this same CMU club on the road in Pittsburgh at 8 p.m.



Senior Scott Stone drives to the basket and goes up for a jump shot against Carnegie Mellon University on Sunday. Stone scored 13 points and five assists in the 86-80 loss to CMU.

Women's track and field wins two straight to kick off indoor season

By Justin Davidson
Senior Sports Editor

The Washington University men's track and field team kicked off their indoor season on Saturday, Jan. 21 with brilliant success, as they won the Rose-Hulman Quad in Terre Haute, Ind. The men's squad took third place in the event. This past weekend the teams followed up their strong showings in Terre Haute as they traveled to Jacksonville, Ill., for the Illinois College Early Bird. Once again, the women placed in the top spot while the men came in third.

In the four-team event at Rose Hulman, the Washington University women tallied up 165 points, ousting Illinois College by a 31-point margin. Out of 15 events in the meet, the University had a representative win the event eight times, and in 13 of 15 events the University had a runner place in at least the top three.

Senior Julie McDermitt started the Bears off strong

early in the event by winning the women's 55-meter dash with a time of 7.69 seconds. She also finished second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.58. Sophomore Abbey Hartmann and freshman Lyuda Shemyakina paced the Bears with the top two positions in the women's 800-meter run with times of 2:28.01 and 2:31.83, respectively.

Equal success came in the 3,000-meter run as three Bears runners placed in the top three spots of the race. Junior Beth Herndon, senior Stephanie Felz, and senior Ginny Griffin clocked in with times of 10:39.70, 10:52.75, and 10:53.60, respectively. In the same fashion, the top three slots in the women's pole vault were owned by the University; sophomore Morgen Leonard-Fleckman came in first with her jump of 3.20 m, junior Nicole Fatigati placed second with a jump of 2.90 m, and freshman Jessica Lane tied Fatigati for second with the same jump of 2.90 m.

The men struggled in the

competition, placing third in the overall meet. Highlights came in the men's 400-meter dash, where freshman Nate Koslof (52.04), junior Robert Clopton (52.92), and sophomore Marcus Woods (53.06) placed in the top three. Ryan Lester won the men's one-mile run with a time of 4:39.30, while senior captain Brennan Bonner and sophomore Jesse McDaniel came in first and second, respectively, in the 3,000-meter run. Senior David Skiba was the last Bear to place first in an event when he ran the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.92, good for first place.

Coming off their first meet of the season, the teams hoped to continue their success in Jacksonville. In the 10-team contest, the women's squad prevailed once again as they edged out home team Greenville College with 171 total points; Greenville scored 113 points. The men's squad placed third out of eight teams with 90.5 points.

It truly was a stellar day for the Bears women, as they

set a number of marks and walked away with their second straight victory. Senior Laura Ehret won the 800-meter run, clocking a time of 2:25.24. Sophomore Danielle Wadlington won the 55-meter hurdles with her time of 9.02 in the finals, Leonard-Fleckman matched her winning score from Rose-Hulman in the pole vault with a jump of 3.20m, 10-6), and freshman Erika Wade placed first in the triple jump (10.18m, 33-4 3/4).

This day was clearly dominated by the women's field teams, and no better performance came but at the hands of junior Delaina Martin, who broke the school record in the weight throw. Martin registered a throw of 16.66 meters (54-8), which is .07 meters better than the old mark. Her throw also is an NCAA provisional qualifying mark.

The men's and women's squads will compete next at the Illinois Wesleyan Titan Open in Bloomington, Ill., on Saturday, Feb. 4.

BONE MARROW ❖ FROM PAGE 1

registry alongside the names of over 5.5 million other donors.

This registry can then be searched by doctors for perfect matches for patients requiring life-saving bone marrow transplants. A donor's chances of being matched are slim, but if one is found, donation is completely optional.

"A lot of people either don't understand what it is or don't want to take the time [to register]," said Marla Esser, a University alum and recipient of the 2005 Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service award for her work with WUMR and registry drives throughout the St. Louis area.

Esser's neighbors have two children, Alex and Matt, who were diagnosed with the rare, life-threatening disease Fanconi Anemia. A bone marrow transplant is the only cure for their condition.

Defying great odds, Alex found her perfect match and received a successful transplant in May 2001.

Matt has yet to find a potential donor and his condition has recently worsened. He is currently receiving blood transfusions, and without a transplant might

die within a year.

Although Matt's chances of finding a match in the University community are slim, WUMR hopes to achieve a "moral victory" for him and to expand the registry for the more than 35,000 other people in the United States with diseases that require marrow transplants for a cure.

Registration at WUMR's drives has been steadily increasing since their start in 2001, and Esser hopes the trend will continue.

"If we could get over 500 donors registered, I would be elated," said Esser.

In order to encourage freshmen to get involved, WUMR will be throwing a pizza party for the freshman floor who registers the most people.

Sophomore Dave Zeman, a recruiter for WUMR, will be helping at the drive. Zeman was diagnosed with leukemia in April of 1994 and, after the failure of chemotherapy, received a life-saving bone marrow transplant from his sister.

"It's an opportunity to allow anyone to save a child's life, something you can't do on a regular basis, and it only takes seven drops of blood," says Zeman.



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FORUM

Our daily Forum editors:

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

We welcome your submissions, and thank you for your consideration.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Regarding plagiarism in Student Life

It is with regret that Student Life announces the retraction of an op-ed submission from last Friday's issue. The submission, headlined "Ariel Sharon is a war criminal, not a hero" and written by junior Trent Taylor, drew largely on a source that was unreferenced. After comparison of Taylor's submission with the original source, we are forced to conclude that the work constitutes plagiarism.

The staff of Student Life attempts to hold itself to the highest standards of journalistic integrity, and although Taylor is not a member of our staff, we apologize to our readership for failing to notice this issue before publication. We emphasize that the mistake is ours, and we accept responsibility. It is our hope that can use this event as an opportunity to make our stance on plagiarism clear.

Nearly all the information contained in Taylor's article is contained in an earlier article published in the International

Socialist Review. In the April-May 2001 issue of that journal, an article entitled "Ariel Sharon: War Criminal" appears that contains much of the same information. Taylor's article does not mention the journal article.

After reviewing both carefully, we decided that the piece that Taylor submitted is, in content, a summary of the journal article. Of the six paragraphs in Taylor's piece, nearly all the information that appears in five of them also appears in the journal article. Although the journal article is significantly longer—approximately 3,200 words as compared to the 787 words in Taylor's article—the two pieces outline the same argument using many of the same facts. We do note that one of the six paragraphs appears to be drawn from a completely independent source; none of its information appears in the journal article.

In some instances, similar phrases appear in both articles in a manner that is striking. "Israeli forces surrounded the

camp as the Phalange, with Israeli weaponry, killed every man, woman and child they found," wrote Taylor. The journal article includes the sentence: "Israeli forces surrounded the camps as the Phalange, with Israeli equipment, killed every man, woman and child they could find." Four other instances of similar phrases also drew our attention.

When asked about these similarities, Taylor said that he was unaware of the journal article and said that many of these issues are commonly discussed in the literature of this topic. Given the similarities outlined above, we think that this claim is suspicious.

But the issue is complicated because the technique of paraphrasing a source is a common one in journalism. It is both necessary and useful. In no place does Taylor's article contain more than a few words that appear in the same order as in the journal article; it is not plagiarism in the cut-and-paste sense. Rather, it gives the journal

article's argument, complete with the same evidence, but submits it as its own.

Washington University's academic integrity policy does not strictly apply in this case, and Student Life reserves the right to discuss what does and does not constitute plagiarism. We do, however, find that policy a useful benchmark here. It states: "You commit plagiarism by taking someone else's ideas, words, or other types of work product and presenting them as your own." In our opinion, even though Taylor's article rephrases and reorganizes the information, which is a legitimate technique, the content is almost all based on an unreferenced source, which is not legitimate. It is plagiarism because Taylor's work suggests that the research and argument are his own, and largely, they are not.

We should also note that Taylor's writing did not take more than a few phrases from the original source in a manner close to verbatim, and only

after careful consideration did we, as a staff, decide that it was necessary to retract it. We do not think that he intended to do anything dishonest or unethical; in our view, the situation only demonstrates how complicated issues of plagiarism can be. We also emphasize that the error is our own, for failing to note the issue sooner.

That said, Student Life does not and cannot review all background materials on all submissions. Although we check for plagiarism in suspicious cases, we rely, in part, on our readers' honesty and academic integrity. We do not think that our readers intend to plagiarize, and we ask that our readers please be careful with citations in submissions. Had Taylor included only a single sentence more to cite where his argument first appeared, this would have been a non-issue.

We would like to thank sophomores Eitan Hochster and Jeremy Kazzaz, who independently discovered the review

article while researching a response to Taylor's submission. Again, because we cannot review all background materials on all submissions, we depend on the honesty and vigilance of our readers, even as we redouble our efforts to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

Readers can find the full text of Trent Taylor's article here:

www.studlife.com/media/paper337/news/2006/01/27/Forum/Ariel.Sharon.Is.A.War.Criminal.Not.A.Hero-1514826.shtml

The full text of the article in the International Socialist Review can be found here:

www.isreview.org/issues/17/Ariel_Sharon.shtml

Give peace a chance

Late Thursday night, during my occasional Student Life headline skim before bed, I noticed the bold accusation presented in Friday's section that Ariel Sharon is a war criminal. As a staunch advocate of Israel, I was jarred by the headline, but as I read on, what truly surprised me was Taylor's intention of starting yet another battle of rhetoric over who has wronged whom by doing what in the continuing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Though some of Taylor's accusations beg for rebuttal, what's more important than the specific arguments is throwing out politics by talking points and working to develop real solutions and understanding between Israelis, Palestinians and advocates on both sides.

In his efforts to convict Sharon as a war criminal, Taylor throws out any and all historical context; any country's efforts during a military campaign could be portrayed as criminal, depending on how they're framed. To say, as Taylor does, that this is what Sharon will be remembered for is similar to saying that Abraham Lincoln should be remembered for everyone who died in the Civil War, rather than the Emancipation Proclamation. Though Taylor is insistent upon calling Sharon "the Bulldozer," one of Sharon's most recent efforts has been to make sure Jewish settlers leave the Gaza Strip to help continue the peace process, which isn't exactly the function of a bulldozer. (A mop, perhaps? A dustbuster?) Taylor's most troubling accusation, however, comes when he blames Sharon himself for the multitude of problems facing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which Taylor would apparently rather still be under Israeli control. These

issues exist, to be sure, but it is hardly the fault of Sharon; Palestinian leadership has been corrupt and ineffective for years, using money and resources meant for its people to pad its own high status. The proof for this is printed clearly on newspaper headlines and blogs around the world, announcing the recent victory of Hamas in Palestinian elections, not because most Palestinians agree with their extreme religious stance, but because they have promised to end the problems in leaderships that have plagued the Palestinians since Arafat.



Matt Shapiro

The recent success of Hamas has also brought one of their key principles to the forefront of international attention: their insistence upon the destruction of the state of Israel. With groups like this, who have worked for decades now not to build lives of their own, but to actively fight against their neighbor, no matter what, it is easy to understand how violent military tactics may come into play. The bottom line is, you have your version of history, I have mine and everyone else has their own opinions about how things happened, who's right, who's wrong, etc. But more important than finding the ideal objective history (which simply does not exist) is moving on from the past to build a better future. Sharon himself is a perfect example of how one can move on from previous issues to work to build

peace and security in a region marked by conflict. Even though Sharon used to be a divisive figure in Israeli politics because of his aggressive tendencies, over the past few years he has made more significant steps than any other recent Israeli leader to bring a livable situation to both Israelis and Palestinians. If you truly care about the region and its people, Mr. Taylor, you'll wholeheartedly agree that that is the single most important thing: progress towards peace.

Both Israelis and Palestinians are at a historical crossroads, both in their internal governments and their interactions with each other. Though Taylor provided a detailed list of the various "atrocities" that Sharon has committed, arguing about events that span the past 50 years should not be the focus of discussion about Israel at this point. Far, far too many Israelis and Palestinians have died and there are people who can be faulted on both sides. But there are new and important developments on both sides now and moving forward should draw the attention of anyone with even a remote interest in the situation in Israel. Despite Taylor's efforts to discredit a recent coma victim, Sharon is a hero, as is anyone who works as hard as he has to bring peace to such a troubled region. I am also looking forward to Taylor's next piece, when he details the atrocities committed by Israel's next potential partner for peace, Hamas; unfortunately, as Student Life submissions have a maximum of 800 words, it may need to be a series.

Matt is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum editor. He can be reached via e-mail at forum@studlife.com.

Ice may be cold, but WU ice hockey is hot

There's just something so oddly fascinating about watching a 45-year-old electrician duke it out with a 20-year-old student, especially when they're both sliding around the ice rink on skates. You almost wonder who wins a fight like that: the younger might feel guilty about beating up on a dad, the older about knocking over someone like his son. Yet it happens with decent regularity at the Brentwood Ice Arena, where the Washington University club ice hockey team plays their games every Thursday evening.

I've been going to the games since sophomore year, since my then and current roommate was on the team. At first it was out of simple sympathy and a pinch of novelty that I attended; I never really liked hockey that much, and considering the level of play that I might expect from a men's league, I didn't know how long I would stay. But somehow, two years later, I'm still there in the stands every week.

Why? Because, well, it's fun, it's unpredictable, and it's free. The league that Wash. U. is in now is a "no-checking" advanced league, which basically means that you can hit, slash and bump anyone as much as you like, provided you don't let the referees catch you. Often, though, the referees seem to be watching a different game altogether, which allows for a great bit of frustration from both benches. In a league where enforcement is expected but rarely, er, enforced, there are bound to be some attempts at retribution. It's men with day jobs playing men looking for day jobs—there are a lot of axes to grind. Wash. U. students don't want to be pushed around by people their par-



Jeff Stepp

ents' or older siblings' age, nor do the "elders" want to be beaten by a group of wealthy, elitist college kids.

This is not to say that games are solely about pseudo-fighting; pure violence isn't very common. But I believe it to be the driving force behind why these club games are so fun to watch. The hockey isn't the NHL, but it is good and Wash. U. has some very talented players, including their player/coach/captain Tom Paskvan, who was recruited by a Division I hockey club. The team also has some mediocre players. This combination is, in fact, how most of the teams in the league are built, which is what makes each game a good one. It's good old-fashioned hockey—no one is playing for money, fame or a job. They're playing because they like playing.

At most games, you would be hard-pressed to find enough spectators to fill one row in one section of a pro hockey rink. But the fans that do come are as participatory as any I've seen at a packed house. There are about a half-dozen of us who seem to be there week after week, yelling, cheering, jeering, pounding the glass and generally making asses of ourselves. Sometimes, like at last week's game, we have about 20 fans, which is great because the rink is less likely to try to throw us out for being rowdy. And, of course, it makes

watching the games a lot more fun. I even heard a Washington University fight song last week (five times—one for each goal), something I hadn't ever heard in my four years here. Yes, we do have one.

This isn't a plea to have people come to the games, nor is it a shameless plug for the hockey team—they're still going to play no matter what. This a fan trying to outline a fun alternative to dorm/frat-party grab-assing. The games are short, about an hour, so if you have other plans you probably won't miss them. Yes, you do have to drive to the rink—it's about five minutes past the Galleria on Brentwood—but I'm telling you, it's worth it.

If you're interested, visit www.brentwoodmo.org/index.asp?SID=97 to see the schedule, standings and directions. The next game is this Thursday at 8:55 p.m. Where else can you bang on things, lose your voice, watch live hockey, pay nothing and be back in time to go out?

Jeff is a senior in Arts & Sciences and a Forum editor. He can be reached via e-mail at forum@studlife.com.

Correction:

In Friday's News article "Wrighton tours Israel with Mayor Slay," Rabbi Hershey Novack was incorrectly quoted as saying the group was at the Western Hotel—the group was actually at the Western Wall.

See FORUM, page 7

YOUR VOICE: LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

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

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

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Romance 101

The great divide: singles and couples

There is something that separates the two groups. It's rarely spoken about aloud. The two groups seem to coexist peacefully most of the time. Who are these groups, you ask? They are those who get to check the privileged "In a relationship" box on their Facebook profiles and those who wish they could.

But why is there an underlying tension? What has spurred the great divide between couples and singles who want to be in a relationship? In the beginning, we were all single, but have some of us forgotten that important fact?

There are the nights when a single girl calls up her friends to attend a crush's birthday party to which she just received a last-minute invitation. One friend inevitably answers,

"I'm sorry, hon'. I'm just a little too tired tonight to go out." The single girl of course tells her that it's fine, but the voice in her head is screaming "Don't you remember what it's like to be single? It's essential that I am surrounded by good supportive friends so I can play hard-to-get at his party." But the friend, a member of the couple world for months, has apparently already forgotten.

Though people of all romantic statuses are friends, there's an unspoken idea that those of the same status understand your problems just a little bit better. Silently, the line is drawn and people form battalions. Singles versus couples: the unspoken war continues. But why the fighting feelings?

The Battle of Bad Conso-

lation. We all know what it feels like to be single. Why does someone in a couple suddenly think that telling their single friend everything will work out and that the right person will come along someday is going to make them feel better if it made them want to scream when they were single?

Sophomore Nick Loyal, who's now in a relationship, said that he would tell a single friend that "he should get out there. It's important to be outgoing, open and flirty."

I think many single people spend every weekend night doing just that, but the perfect person isn't just falling from the sky and landing on the beer pong table.



Laura Alexander

The Battle of Blatant PDA. A single person may have just finished having one of those "I'm going to die alone" thoughts and then they turn around in Mallinckrodt noticing two people who have

their chairs pushed together so they can cuddle and sneak in a few kisses between bites of lunch.

Alumna Lesli Harad ('05) said, "It makes me feel like I want to throw up. It's like someone rubbing it in your face."

Why do the rules change for PDA the second a person switches sides? They come off looking like a traitor to the troops of singles.

The Battle of Forgotten Life. Why does entering a relationship result in am-

nesia of your past life as a single person? Nick Loyal said that he would tell a friend who was envious of his happy relationship that, "they should try and find someone." A nice thought, though not exactly practical.

Senior Kristi Gu believes that people who have been with someone for awhile suffer from memory loss of the single life.

"They forget what it's like having to do things by themselves. And what it's like not always having people to call or having someone to rely on as a date," she said.

It's time to find a cure for this offensive illness. As in any war, there must be a treaty to end fighting. What should appear in the treaty that brings peace to these two romantic fronts?

There must be tolerance, understanding and awareness practiced by both sides. If you are single, don't hold a grudge against a friend who spends the night with their significant other rather than you. They have someone they care for and you should be happy for them. If you are attached, don't rub your relationship in a single person's face. You were single once; you should remember how it feels.

We all have to compromise to coexist happily. It's time to remove the bitterness from the singles and the smugness from the couples. It's time for the troops to rest. It's time for the treaty to bridge the great divide and bring peace to the world of romance.



By Jake Levitas and Chris Kudelka

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The journey begins at the Italian district known as "The Hill." Il Hill (for the Italian/gangsta reader) is known to many as a quiet place, troubled only by the occasional hair gel shortage or episode of emphysema due to inhaling a lifetime of cheap cologne. Some theorize that this historical district may be home to a graveyard of millions of life-sized ceramic Chinese warriors. You might be asking yourself why the Chinese built a tomb underneath fabulous Italian eateries, but we'll leave scientific inquiry to those crazy Confucians. Maybe they erected Modesto as their Italian-defiant monument, something to really stir things up...make things out of sorts if you will. Jake,

Chris, et al. think otherwise.

When we arrived at Modesto we were welcomed by the charm of a Spanish guitarist and an authentic flamenco dancer who was shaking it como un foto Polaroid. The sound of her shoes on the hardwood floor sounded something like a horde of rhythmic bulls all charging at us, the proverbial Matadors (ole!). Once we took our seats, we ogled our newfound menus.

Before we describe all of the delish, let it be known that Modesto is renowned for its tapas. Tapas are small, traditional Spanish dishes similar to appetizers, but Spanish culture fanatics tend to enjoy them both eaten as a side or several together as a meal. Imagine

them as mini entrées without any veggies, fries or onion rings. Tapas are served both calientes (hot) or frias (cold) or Connerly style (with hot sauce and scotch). Prices range from \$5 to \$8 a piece, varying in selection between vegetarian dishes, carnivorous delights or one might venture into the ultra-diet domain and hunt for "water with ice"—risky. The tapas selections were outstanding and crazily delectable. Like el Zorro and his whip, everything had a hint of mystery, spice and next-morning C. Zeta J, the good kind. If the idea of side dishes for a meal isn't floating thy boat, there are a few pricey meals on the backside of the menu. But we recommend you suck it up and give tapas a shot.

With five people in our par-tay, we decided to use our recommended, patented tapas-ordering formula in which you multiply the number of people in your party by 1.5 to decide how much to order. You math majors will realize that this left us with 7.5 tapas to order. Instead of hassling our kind waiter with half-orders, however, we just decided to load up on the awesome free bread to account for the phantom half-tapa.

Typically once you've ordered, the tapas will come one or two at a time with a good portion of bread and olive tapenade. Heed our warning: some of them are extremely hot temperature-wise and you're likely to burn down your house if

you don't take heed. Please heed. But don't wait to dig it, spread the word of the flavor lord and share your tasty wealth with your friends. Or be greedy, you heathen, *todo es bueno*. Take in the atmosphere—indulge in the rhythmic heel thumping, the aromatic air and the Hallmark® moment. If Modesto made greeting cards and we loved people, we'd send them to someone we loved.

Being able to order seven things off the menu gave us a near-telekinetic insight into Modesto's immodest offerings. One of our favorites was the pork and veal meatball dish, coming with about 6 medium-sized succulent meatballs in a sweet tomato-onion sauce (ideal for dip-

ping free bread into). Also of note were the chicken empanadas, little flaky pockets of heaven which melt in your mouth. Finally, and perhaps most delightful, was the tender hanger steak which literally fell apart when we touched it. Served in small strips with an unbelievable sauce, it was absolutely mouthwatering.

Perfect for dates, Modesto's combination of atmosphere, flavor and uniqueness makes the restaurant a must for anyone wishing for a taste of Spain, or just a wonderful meal. It is high-quality cuisine at an incredibly affordable price (each person in our group paid \$10), and is highly recommended by Jake, Chris, Zorro and Confucius.

FORUM ❖ FROM PAGE 6

Perhaps 'True Life' isn't so true after all

By Bill Maas
Op-ed Submission

Regarding Laura Vilines' article, "Washington University's True Life: How other University students stack up," I must say I was not the least bit surprised with her survey's results. Not all hope is lost, though. I just wanted to let you know that there are some students out there who are financially independent.

I will admit that I was quite pampered in high school (relative to the area that I lived in). I never had a job during the school year (I worked during the summer) and I never had to pay for a car (because I never had one). While in high school and applying to schools, all my dad ever thought about was costs. My mom, an English teacher who insisted on correct grammar all the damn time, originally wanted me to attend Wash. U.

She knew what it meant to graduate from a prestigious university. But I was presented with a problem. My father told me straight up that if I wanted to go to Wash. U., I would have to pay for it. Another requirement for attending was not becoming a brainwashed hippie. The latter has not been a problem. But I had to research how I was going to afford this school that was so absurdly priced.

I finally found a certain scholarship program that would pay my full tuition and room/board. It even gave

me a monthly stipend and a little help with buying books! I couldn't ask for more. Well, I could ask for more, but I would be told to shut up. Though, with all the benefits,

"Since graduation from high school, I have remained financially independent from my parents, and I will continue to be when I graduate from this university."

there are MANY requirements involved with this scholarship, all mandatory and time-consuming (including, but not limited to, a class every semester that Wash. U. doesn't even give you credit for, but that's a completely different topic. It also requires a post-graduation job commitment, but I will not get into details. If you cannot figure out what program I am talking about, well, think harder.

Since graduation from high school, I have remained financially independent from my parents and I will continue to be when I graduate from this university. But...people like Julie Loewenberg make me almost regret my decision to attend. Hopefully, students

who are responsible can make bigger impressions on the younger, impressionable MTV crowd (who all are thinking about where they want to attend college) than this snobby excuse for a "fashion designer." I have enough trouble explaining to people from my podunk area of Ohio (the only thing notable from my village is our racing course that makes it on ESPN about once a year) where St. Louis even is, and how I do NOT, in fact, attend a school in the state of Washington. I don't need help from MTV making my school look like a bunch of primed, Paris Hilton-wannabe socialites. Considering the percentage of bleeding-heart liberals on campus who exhibit these qualities, I suggest a new slogan for the College Democrats: "We love to help the disadvantaged and the poor, regardless of our extreme and needless spending on products that are required to maintain our superior social status."

If you were offended by that last statement, then you are exactly the type of person who needs to read it again and think about what it is saying. This letter will probably fall on deaf ears, but if you ever have a chance to represent yourself in the mainstream media (or to ANYONE), please think of who you are representing. Some of us wish to maintain school pride.

Bill is a junior in Arts & Sciences and can be reached via e-mail at maas@wustl.edu.

Picking on Ariel Sharon

By Ben Yungher
Op-ed Submission

Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion. Differing opinions are what make democratic societies great. Yet once one crosses the not-so-fine line between opinion and one-sided, tendentious accusation, those of us with any moral fiber must protest.

Counting on many students to not be familiar with the intricacies of Middle East politics, Trent Taylor's article on Friday tried to present embellished facts and obvious propaganda as truth in order to deceive the reader and reach defamatory conclusions about a man who is now unable to defend himself. Ariel Sharon is a soldier, and a great one at that. Calling him a "war criminal" is a gross bastardization of the expression and ultimately allows the term to be used against anybody in uniform. For example, in bestowing the title "war criminal," the writer conveniently neglected to do the same with General Eisenhower and Prime Minister Churchill, although they ordered countless bombings of German cities during WWII. How easy it is to be selective in name-calling when it serves one's political agenda.

Sharon's actions in war (several wars in which a single Israeli defeat would have meant genocide, the total annihilation of millions of Jews) were no different than those of many other soldiers' defending their country. Hold-

ing him, as well as Israel, to a different standard than one would hold America, China, France and Mozambique is unfair. As a military commander, Sharon may have killed for his country, just as thousands of other Israelis were compelled to do in order to protect their wives, sisters, mothers and daughters from an enemy whose goal was "to eliminate the state of Israel" (Yasser Arafat, 1996—years after he signed the peace accords in Oslo). War is hell, and Israel never wanted any of it.

Now, Taylor mentioned Sabra and Shatila, a massacre that clearly violated the Geneva Conventions, just as ANY targeting of innocent civilians is against the rules of war. This massacre was at the hands of a Christian Maronite militia, not at the hands of Ariel Sharon. Furthermore, a United States court ruled in 1987 that a Time article linking Sharon to the massacre was false and defamatory. Taylor either did not know about this, a glaring omission for someone who took it upon himself to lecture us about the Middle East, or very suspiciously opted to hide this fact if he was aware of it, lest it undermine his own ramblings.

The last piece of obvious falsehood is Taylor's assertion that Sharon's construction of a security fence (like the one between America and Mexico, or India and Pakistan) cripples any hope of peace. I'm sure that's the reason, and not Hamas and Islamic Jihad's continued acts of terrorism against Israeli civilians. Mr.

Taylor says that the fence has left Palestinians with 11 percent of Palestine. Unless he received this statistic from Al-Qaeda Daily, this is not true. The fence extends past the Green Line to include cities that are 100 percent Jewish, leaving 93 percent, not 11 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians. In any case, the fence is not considered a permanent boundary, but instead just a way to keep terrorists from blowing up Israeli schools, restaurants, and buses. It is a fact beyond dispute that putting up this fence has drastically reduced the number of civilian casualties, which, in another display of misleading writing, Taylor completely forgot to mention. In addition, it boggles the mind that he chose not to mention a single Palestinian atrocity from the last hundred years, acts of terror that have filled Israeli morgues with civilians; not one word, only an attack on the Jewish prime minister.

I'd like to say one thing in closing. Shame on you, Student Life. Shame on you for printing such a hateful fabrication. I would hope to never see something of the sort again, whether it is about Prime Minister Sharon, Mahatma Gandhi or FDR. This kind of article makes a mockery of objectivity, fairness and journalistic integrity, and is a blemish on Student Life's reputation.

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

the facebook

(continued from page 10)

Why do the Facebook haters gotta hate?

By Sarah Klein
Scene Regular Features Editor

Since the Black Eyed Peas came out with their song, "Where is the Love?" one might have thought that young people would have ceased hating and started embracing their fellow human beings.

Yet, it seems that even on Facebook, that bastion of sociability, where friends are collectibles and new social groups are a few clicks away, the nasty concept of severe dislike has followed us. Where, you might ask, does hate rear its ugly head? It is in no short supply within widely popular and time-wasting Facebook groups.

Not everyone hates seriously. Many "hate" groups on the Facebook are a joke, such as the "He-man Woman Haters Club" group, which is centered on a joke concerning the Little Rascals movie. Collegiate Squirrel Haters (Wash U Chapter)'s creator Liz Shane, a junior, said that she doesn't seriously hate squirrels; she's just occasionally peeved by them.

"They are ridiculously annoying and they make this weird noise like a dying crow," she imparted with slight passion. But, she confessed, "It's clearly a joke. It's just a forum for people to discuss how annoying squirrels are and share funny stories," explained Shane.

Many other "hate" groups are joking as well. Junior Jason Lewis, the creator of the

"I hate humans" Facebook group, does not really hate humans. Rather, there are a lot of things that people do that really piss him and the members of his group off, like walking too slow and chewing gum with mouths open.

"I hate humans' just has a better ring to it than, 'I hate rude people,'" he said.

And hate is a great way to bring people together. A recent article in *Psychology Today* notes that new studies have shown that people bond more readily over common dislike, like a feeling of disgust for Britney Spears, than over a love of a teacher or broccoli.

A particular hatred that certainly brings together people on this campus is a hatred of popped collars. There are no less than four Facebook groups on the Wash. U. network that profess disgust for this fashion trend.

Sophomore Jon Wolff, creator of the group "Popped-collar Haterz," said he created the group because guys who usually pop their collars are guys he considers kind of sleazy. He doesn't really hate those who pop their collars now, however, and, although he is still listed as the creator, he has taken himself off as a member of his group, because he decided it was kind of stupid.

"I think people create Facebook groups of this nature to get attention," he said, "and I realized that [in

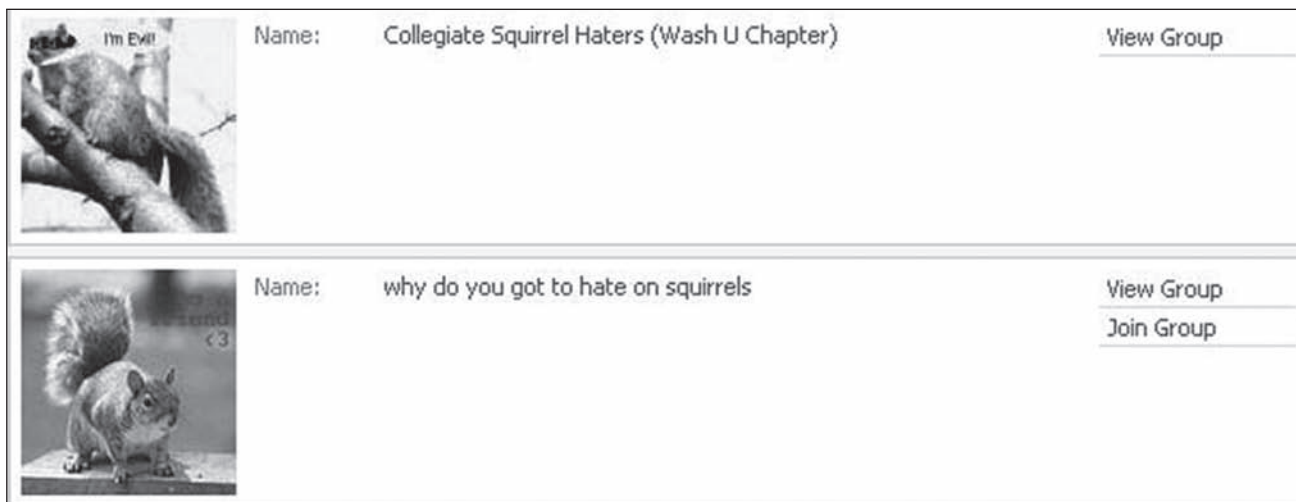
creating the group] I was doing the same thing on some kind of level as the guys who pop their collars."

In Wolff's opinion, Facebook groups are often created by freshmen interested in making themselves known. These groups don't become serious until they become organized movements or groups, with meetings outside of cyberspace.

Yet the cumulative effect of the campus popped-collar hatred—on and off the Facebook—does manage to have consequences in real life.

Junior Jonah Fay-Hurwitz, while not severely affected by these groups in any way, noted that the idea of hating someone for their fashion choice is just ridiculous. Fay-Hurwitz used to pop his collar, but rarely does so anymore.

"I used to do it because I thought it looked better, and in high school nobody else did it," he said. "But now guys who do it are considered tools or douchebags or jackasses. It has a whole different meaning from what it used to be."



While "Collegiate Squirrel Haters" isn't serious in its hatred, another group chose to form in the squirrels' defense.

COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Pushing past popped collars, there is a point at which the Facebook hate group becomes a little less funny and a little more hateful, even without strong intentions for that message from the creators.

For instance, a Facebook group entitled, "Anti-Feminist...Quit ya Bitchin', Get Back in the Kitchen," has a catchy name which encourages even feminists to giggle, but nonetheless is one of the few Facebook groups which actually professes to hate people for the way they think.

Senior Ally D'Alba is a self-proclaimed feminist and the anti-feminist Facebook group does not really surprise her.

"People who dislike feminists just don't really understand what we believe in," said D'Alba. "They have

an extreme view of us as lesbians who don't shave their legs and hate men. Most feminists don't even hate men."

While D'Alba thinks that Facebook groups should remain outlets for free speech, she recognized the fact that there is a little bit of truth to every joke.

"A lot of jokes are anti-feminist, anti-gay or anti-woman, and you laugh, but they are really not that funny; they're [slightly] offensive," she said.

To most students, Facebook hate groups are not really of great concern. The Facebook group is not meant to be taken seriously and students don't take it seriously. But therein lies a certain weakness: when serious subjects are treated with flippancy, whose opinions can we respect?

"I think [the creation of a Facebook hate group] illustrates cowardice to a certain extent," said Fay-Hurwitz. "If people really hate something, to express it on Facebook is a little backhanded... and passive-aggressive. They don't have to deal with the questions. They don't have to justify their opinions."

For example, the creator of one serious group was interviewed for this article and then rescinded all his comments. Even when hate is in a public sphere like Facebook, it seems difficult for those used to the protection of the impersonality of the internet to own up for what they put on it.

"If you really hate something, you should put yourself in a position where you should be responsible for what you say," said Fay-Hurwitz.

The Facebook's audience is wider than we think

By Amanda Ogus
Scene Reporter

The Facebook—that virtual community where the possibilities to connect with other students at college or maintain old friendships seem endless.

From showcasing a talented photographer's pictures of student life, poking old friends to say hi or just looking at the profile of that cute boy someone saw in Mallinckrodt, users have many positive outlets with which to use their own accounts.

In fact, even professors can utilize these positive components to Facebook. Assistant Professor of Accounting Tzachi Zach embraces the ways that he, too, can look at the profiles.

"I look at people's profiles to see their interests, what clubs to they belong to, do they like soccer, do they like music," said Zach. "It's to gauge students' interests outside the classroom."

Zach further commented on the many social connections he has made between former students and current ones through the social networking features, as well as the ease of staying up-to-date on the new lives of these former students. The advantages of the Facebook seem limitless.

Yet, even with the ease of this relatively new program, started in 2004 by Harvard graduates, there are bound to be problems when technology moves faster than the rules. The fact that the Facebook seems so centered



Assistant Professor Tzachi Zach is among a growing number of faculty members with Facebook accounts.

COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

on the students is deceiving. Most students don't realize how many people actually have a ".edu" address—the only requirement to have a Facebook account. Rob Wild, Associate Director of Residential Life, worries that students do not realize the possible harm that Facebook can cause.

"I think students just need to be careful, because it is such a public venue," said Wild. "I can't emphasize this enough. I think students feel like Facebook is somewhat anonymous and I worry about what people put up there. People in the University, like myself, have access to it, so you have to be prepared for a lot of eyes to see it."

Wild's fears about Facebook have been confirmed at other universities around the country. According to the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, an independent newspaper of the University of Pennsylvania, freshman student elections were delayed in the

fall of 2005 due to unauthorized information posted on candidates' Facebook sites before the proper date. The independent newspaper of the University of New Mexico, *The Daily Lobo*, reported on events in October 2005 when administrators banned access to the site due to the large amounts of e-mail it produced, which slowed down the school's server. At Kansas State University, administrators used the Facebook in November 2005 to investigate an honor code violation dealing with message boards about class content, according to the *Kansas State Collegian*.

Wash. U. currently doesn't have a specific policy regarding the Facebook, but Residential Life has started to incorporate the site into their work. The Facebook offers another forum in which to learn about events on campus, some of which may violate Residential Life rules.

"If you are publicizing an

event in a Residential Life space that looks like it's going to be a violation of ResLife policy...that individual is going to hear from our staff," said Wild. "We will address it with those people if it looks like it could be potentially problematic."

In addition to learning about events, Wild also uses the Facebook when meeting with students over worries of behavioral problems.

"If you are involved in something that causes the University some concern about your behavior and we see something on Facebook," said Wild, "even though it's not part of the University computer system, that is still something we will talk to a student about."

Often, students' Facebook profiles are not necessarily a positive portrayal of their personalities. Many faculty members, such as Liggett/Koenig Residential College Director Mary Elliott, hold concerns about the way their students are advertising

themselves.

"For me, your Facebook image is part of your reputation," said Elliott. "Yet students really let themselves all hang out. I worry about it, because I think it can send a negative image of what students are and what students are about. I have so many amazing students, but sometimes I'll look at their Facebook profiles and think, 'There has to be more to you than that.'"

"Your profile isn't a complete mirror of who you are," added Wild, "and you can make assumptions about people based on their pictures or their groups. People misinterpret things."

These types of assumptions can have severe ramifications now that more and more employers are telling applicants that they do consult applicant's Facebook profiles as a component of their decision.

Director of Student Activities Julie Thornton recently had a student ask her to judge the decency level of his profile, trying to see what a future employer might see. Thornton analyzed the different parts and tried to help the student adjust certain areas.

"I don't know what changes, if any, he made; the stuff that was on there wasn't terribly incriminating," said Thornton. "But we had that conversation about what potentially it could do, if [future employers] knew certain attitudes and lifestyle choices."

Another place in which Facebook profiles will be consulted is in the com-

petitive Resident Advisor application process. Similar to Elliott's view of Facebook as one's public image, Wild advises applicants to ponder the appropriateness level of the profile.

"I think as an RA candidate, I would be careful what I have up on Facebook," said Wild. "If there is something up there that gives an impression of you, that's public knowledge."

Wash. U. will continue to monitor Facebook and regulations and other programs may continue to change in coming years. According to *The New York Times*, Tufts University and Texas Christian University have started to offer seminars regarding the Facebook, and Wash. U. is following this trend by looking to include Facebook tips in the materials for new students at Orientation. Elliott sees further changes in the next few years.

"I can see it getting cracked down on in universities," said Elliott. "I think it's really easy for people to throw out what their opinion is, and you'll see more legal sanctions at other schools."

Elliott added, though, that Wash. U.'s policy has always centered on the First Amendment and she does not see that stance changing.

"We may not like what our students do or say, but we stand apart of that. We believe in it and it is part of our value system," said Elliott. "I can see that because it's part of your culture it's going to become more a part of ours."

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Sudoku By Michael Mepham

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

Level: Gentle

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

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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

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1/30/06



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Crossword

- ACROSS
- Touch down
 - Worn out
 - Tel Aviv
 - African lily
 - Olin or Horne
 - Manmade fabric
 - Laura or Bruce
 - Like mother-of-pearl
 - Sprinkle with powder
 - In addition
 - Changes, as a timer
 - Much inclined
 - Old Peruvian
 - June honorees
 - Lends a hand
 - Slalom
 - Edge
 - Nationalist
 - Zodiac sign
 - Actor Marlon
 - Olympics site of 1996
 - Pub serving
 - Rep. letters
 - Make a second appearance
 - Malevolent stare
 - Scottish loch
 - "_ Delicate Condition"
 - Jostled
 - _ the question
 - Encounter
 - "Rocky" co-star
 - Gilbert or Teasdale
 - City on the Rhone River delta
 - Persian Gulf country
 - Land of Blarney and Killarney
 - Like some eyes
 - E-mailed
 - Snow coaster

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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71				72								

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1/30/06

Solutions

D	E	T	S	I	N	E	S	A	D	V	E	B
N	I	R	E	N	V	R	I	S	E	T	R	V
V	H	V	S	E	R	I	H	S	A	V	I	T
T	E	E	W	P	O	P	O	D	E	L	O	H
S	V	P	V	P	S	S	E	N				
H	E	E	L	E	T	E	N	E	E	R		
P	O	G	E	L	V	A	T	A	N	V	L	V
O	D	N	V	R	B			S	E	C	S	I
T	O	I	V	V	P	M	I	R	I	K	S	
S	T	S	I	S	V	A		S	D	D		
				V	C	N	I	P	E	E	T	S
S	T	E	S	E	H	O	O	L	T	S	N	D
T	N	E	O	S	O	V	I	R	I	N	H	E
N	O	F	L	O	V	N	E	T	E	O	L	V
V	A	F	V	J	T	O	H	S	D	N	V	L

- DOWN
- Alan and Cheryl
 - Native Alaskan
 - Scandinavians
 - Pockmarked
 - Narrow cut
 - Bravery
 - Stew veggie
 - Abe's boy
 - San __, CA
 - Parabolas
 - Make tracks
 - Typeface
 - Porch raiders
 - Like pencil marks
 - Allowance provider
 - Lid
 - Swells out
 - "Silkwood" star
 - Levin or Gershwin
 - Belt out
 - Busy person's list
 - Come to a standstill
 - Ship's pole
 - Flying toy
 - Capri or Man
 - Fire
 - Exist
 - Losing competitor
 - Exodus
 - pharaoh
 - Steeple top
 - Oyster yield
 - Eagle's home
 - Put up with
 - Piercing pain
 - Tortoise's competitor
 - __ podrida
 - Competed (for)
 - "__ Rider"
 - House opening?
 - Howdy-dos

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SCENE

the facebook

Identities Etiquette Administrators Hate

Alternate identities abound on the Facebook

By Felicia Baskin
Scene Reporter

On the Facebook, you can find people with whom you share an interest, catch up with elementary school friends or even talk to God.

Yes, that's right. God has a Facebook account—and apparently, He attends Washington University.

The Facebook profile allegedly created by God is just one of many floating around in the Wash. U. Facebook web space.

There are dozens of "alternate identity" Facebook profiles, or profiles created under pseudonyms. These profiles represent a wide spectrum of personalities, ranging from the aforementioned religious figure to television characters like Elaine Benes from "Seinfeld" to the entire state of North Dakota.

Clearly, fictional characters and states do not actually attend this fine institution. Rather, several Wash. U. students have discovered a way to manipulate their school e-mail addresses and register multiple Facebook accounts.

The origins of these profiles are typically rooted in inside jokes or entertainment. Senior Pteri Plotnick created the "North Dakota" Facebook account to help her friend out in a competition for the most Facebook friends.

"I wanted to pick a big,

square state that wasn't heavily populated. South Dakota already has [Mount] Rushmore, so I thought good old North Dakota deserved some [recognition]," said Plotnick.

Sophomore Brian Reale, creator of the "Johnny Bosco" profile, explained that he and his friends, "had a thing where [they would] glorify the Bosco stick." The Facebook profile seemed like "the most logical thing to do" to honor Bosco sticks and their cheesy goodness, he said. Similarly, sophomore Danny Bravman created the "Nobody" Facebook profile to represent an ongoing joke with his friends.

"Someone made an observation that within a group of friends we had a friend from every state—but nobody was from Wyoming," recalled Bravman. The fact that "nobody was from Wyoming" turned into a stream of jokes about "Nobody." For example, Bravman lived in a single room and the joke formed that Nobody was his roommate; Bravman accordingly listed Nobody's dorm room to be the same as his own.

Indeed, many alternative profiles are very detailed. The profile of "George Oscar Bluth II (G.O.B.)," a character from the television show "Arrested Development," is completely filled out, thanks to sophomore Elizabeth Hague. Hague created the page "right when course books came out," so

she even went so far as to list courses that she thought G.O.B. would enjoy. Hague began her page as a joke with some friends, including sophomore Jessica Spector (responsible for the "Elaine Benes" profile) and sophomore Blair McNamara (maker of the "God" profile).

"We had fun with the characters we really liked," explained Spector.

"We really don't take Facebook that seriously," qualified McNamara.

Still, McNamara's fake profile and those of other alternate-profile makers have been embraced by the Facebook community. Fake profiles get an unbelievable amount of friend requests.

The creator of the "Washington University" profile, who wishes to remain anonymous to protect the sanctity (and humor) of the account, noted that he, "stopped friending people at Washington University because they friended [him]."

Bravman agreed, stating that initially he friended his own friends, but he doesn't actively friend people anymore.

"At one point, Nobody had more friends than [I] did," he said.

While most Facebook users get random friend requests every once in a while, such requests are the norm for those who maintain alternate Facebook profiles. These requests are not only from Washington

University students; profile-keepers receive friend requests from students all over the nation. No one is really sure how students from other schools find the alternate profiles.

Plotnick remarked that, "North Dakota has passively waited to be friended" and though "the results within Washington University aren't that spectacular...[she is] fairly impressed with North Dakota's other school friend population."

There is also a good deal of interaction between students with alternate profiles.

"Washington University" itself is married to "Chancellor Mark Wrighton," according to "Washington University's" profile. Likewise, the "Elaine Benes" profile states that Benes is married to "David Puddy" of DePaul University. Puddy was one of Benes's boyfriends on the actual "Seinfeld" show.

"Washington University's" maintainer, as well, received a series of messages from a profile called "Balrog of Moria" at Emory University. The "Balrog" posted multiple messages on "Washington University's" wall criticizing the University and trying to start a Facebook battle.

Reale noted that many people message him to share their experiences with Bosco sticks; one girl even, "asked how to get a hold of Bosco sticks, and if [Reale] could arrange a UPS delivery" of the sticks to her

address.

McNamara's "God" page undoubtedly receives the oddest responses; she has received confirmation messages for friend detail requests that say things like, "God and I were in a serious relationship."

One alternate Facebook maker is hoping that the traffic generated by these pages can be used to the advantage of the Wash. U. population.

The student responsible for the "Washington University" profile believes that his profile, "has a purpose, more than comedy," and that it could really help connect the student body. He has started a corresponding group called "Washington University—the Entire Campus." His goal is, "to get everyone from Washington University who is on Facebook to join the group." Anyone who wanted an announcement posted on the page would simply have to message the "Washington University" account and its caretaker would post the message or message group members.

"Johnny Bosco's" Reale also



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Thanks to Blair McNamara, even God has a profile on Facebook.

has a plan for his page—"to engender a certain spirit of brotherhood between people who have consumed Bosco sticks."

But for most of these alternate Facebook profile managers, simply having fun with the page is enough of a reward.

"I didn't think North Dakota was an especially brilliant idea at the time," said Plotnick, "but now I'm glad I did it...I am proud to claim that I was definitely among the very first Washington University people to create a frivolous Facebook profile."

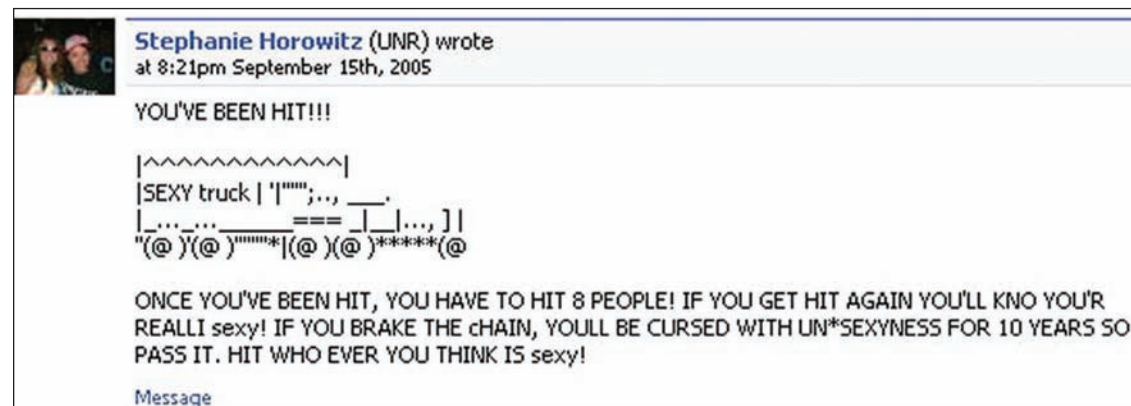
Miss Manners: Facebook etiquette

By Jessica Sommer
Scene Reporter

When Mark Zuckerberg launched Facebook, his ingenious invention instantly connected thousands of college students. Yet for all the possibilities it created, the new Web site also opened a Pandora's box of online irritation.

Since its inception, Facebook has provided millions of students with wonderful resources to stay in touch with old friends and get a preview of new ones. While there were always a few rogue Facebookers abusing the Web site, the problem has now reached epidemic proportions. Whether the transgressions take the form of inappropriate postings or spontaneous, uncontrollable friending, the truth remains: our beloved Facebook is plagued by uncivilized, unsophisticated and uncultured undergraduates.

In an effort to alleviate this pressing issue, I have compiled



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

The "beautiful truck" and all its variations (sexy, hideous, etc.) are no better than chain letters, according to Jessica Sommer.

propriety guidelines which will hopefully lead our student body into the forefront of Facebook etiquette.

One of the most problematic areas concerns the wall. Sure, everyone loves to see a new message from a friend, but there must be limits. Nobody likes to open their profile and find themselves staring at a seductively posed naked woman

composed of asterisks, dashes and money signs.

Furthermore, for most people, chain letters rightfully ended with the onset of puberty, and posting a picture of "the beautiful truck" on someone's wall is only reminiscent of these sixth grade annoyances. Certainly there is a better way to tell far-off friends you are thinking of them.

Although slightly more acceptable, your wall should not be a shrine to anyone in particular. It's nice you are so close with the girl down the hall, but her face does not have to be displayed nine times in a row with a loving message to the right of each picture.

This applies to your better half as well; we all know you are in love, but there is no need

to post it with every log-on. If you are feeling particularly emotional one day, send a message or, gasp, use the phone.

While the wall is a beacon for glaring Facebook transgressions, postings on your wall are not always controllable. Conversely, the profile is entirely your domain, but some are taking this luxury too far. Nobody wants to read a novel about your life, so spare the life story under "about me."

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so to show others who you are, which is the purpose of Facebook, put up an actual picture of yourself and not a picture of you and your 12 other best friends, obscure animals, such as lemurs and bush babies or, by far the worst, the infamous question mark.

Lastly, many otherwise well-behaved Facebookers go awry when it comes to friending. It's

nice to have a lot of friends in the real world, but if this is not the case, please, do not try to overcompensate on Facebook. Running back to your computer to friend someone five minutes after you have first met is not appealing, and is, in fact, creepy. Also, friending someone you don't know based on their listed interests or because they have the same last name is even less appealing, and is, in fact, really creepy.

Perhaps most importantly, let us not forget that the Facebook does not translate to the real world. When meeting someone new, refrain from confessing that you have definitely seen your newfound friend on Facebook. It's not endearing.

I understand the temptations are there. You may want to friend that cute guy or sign your best friend's wall twice a day, but I urge you, for the common good, to just say no this time.

Word on the Street:

HOW DOES THE FACEBOOK AFFECT YOUR DAILY LIFE?

By Archana Varma
Scene Reporter

Mario Martinez, senior



"It doesn't."

Whitney Evans, freshman



"It helps me keep in touch with my friends and I love looking at people's photos, checking out guys and also reading people's Facebook walls, because they can be pretty hilarious."

Molly Brooks, freshman



"When random people say hi to me on campus and I have no clue who they are, although they look oddly familiar, I go back to my room and discover that we are Facebook friends."

Hiten Patel, freshman



"It gives me targets to lurk after and follow until they join [my Facebook group], The League of Shadows, muahaha!"

Andres Gonzalez-Bode, freshman



"It helps me remember people's birthdays and allows me to stalk girls in a non-threatening way."

Turn to page 8 for more Facebook fun!