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MS SAMUELA KOFFMAN  
BOX NO. 8132

# Record

Feb. 11, 1999

Volume 23 No. 20



## Washington University in St. Louis



**Shall we dance?** Freshman Michael Fine and senior Karen Yaloz, both from the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences, demonstrate a traditional Viennese waltz at the Department of Music's Viennese Ball, held Saturday, Feb. 6, in Holmes Lounge. The ball, presented by the Friends of Music Society, was officially opened by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, followed by greetings from the Honorable Christian Krepela, Austrian Consul General and guest of honor. In grand Viennese tradition, bouquets for all ladies attending were provided by Vienna Mayor Michael Häupl.

MARY BURTUS

## Thinking on their feet

### University researchers devise breakthrough robotics algorithm

By TONY FITZPATRICK

**R**obots, unlike stand-up comics, are not adept at thinking on their feet.

Should a heckler interrupt a planned routine, or an irresistible off-the-cuff opportunity arise, the comic can sense these changing situations and adjust. A robot on the factory floor, though, is stuck with its plan amidst a changing landscape and will keep spot welding on a non-existent automobile frame, for instance, because of a delay on the assembly line.

Now, an engineer at Washington University and two of his former graduate students have stated a theory and devised an algorithm that will make robots as deft and nimble as Robin Williams on "The Tonight Show." And they have demonstrated their theory and algorithm with robots in a University laboratory.

T.J. Tarn, Ph.D., professor of systems science and mathematics in the School of Engineering and Applied Science; Mumin Song, Ph.D., technical specialist with Ford Motor Co. in Detroit; and Ning Xi, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical engineering at Michigan State University, are the first to develop a theory that integrates low-level data sensing, or gathering, with high-level planning and decision-making processes.

The theory, encapsulated in an algorithm, completely automates the process whereby a system must adapt to changing conditions. For years, manufacturers with automated systems have dealt with floor malfunctions in an ad hoc way, involving a lot of human intervention and wasted time and dollars. With the adaptation of the Tarn/Song/Xi theory, manufacturers will be able to let the robot — or other automated process — go with or adapt to the flow on its own.

In the case of a robot on the factory floor, it would use the all-purpose algorithm to halt work when the assembly line is out of synch and begin again once things were in order. This leaves the plant manager out of the picture, allowing him or her to pursue other tasks. Similarly, in air traffic control, an airplane's automated computer system could relay data through the algorithm to traffic control headquarters, letting headquarters know the plane's location and other parameters to determine the plane's ultimate arrival time. This would lessen the strain of the controller's job.

The algorithm is called the Max-Plus Algebra Model. It combines task-scheduling, action-planning and control, and it solves a problem that is two decades old.

"The biggest problem in scheduling is to get the machine to fit into the whole system," said Tarn, who is director of the University's Center for Robotics and Automation. "Scheduling is on the high level of control; real-time sensing is on the low level. How to coordinate the two levels automatically has been a wide-open problem for 20 years in the field of intelligent control. We've solved it theoretically with this model, and then we've proven it in the laboratory."

The Max-Plus model will have applications in automatic control systems far and wide. It can be used in many automated situations where high-level controls must be coordinated with low-level ones. It also could be a boon to the medical industry, where certain surgical procedures, such as artificial hip replacements that require a super-human steady hand, are performed with robotic instruments.

In Tarn's laboratory, the engineers programmed a Puma robot to pick up three objects of

See **Robots**, page 6

## Program cuts blacks' smoking rates

### Neighborhood-based campaign yields striking results

By JIM DRYDEN

**A**lthough smoking has declined steadily since the 1964 publication of the Surgeon General's first report on the dangers of cigarettes, rates remain high in some groups. About 25 percent of Americans smoke cigarettes, but the percentage exceeds 30 percent among African Americans.

Several major campaigns have failed to lower smoking rates in this group. But researchers from Washington University and the Saint Louis University School of Public Health have come up with new neighborhood-based programs that are planned and implemented

by residents. After two years, targeted neighborhoods had a significantly lower percentage of African-American smokers than neighborhoods that did not take part in a program.

The two-year project, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health, helped cut smoking rates from 34 percent to 27 percent in three predominantly low-income, African-American neighborhoods. Smoking rates remained essentially level, declining only from 34 percent to 33 percent, in demographically similar neighborhoods in Kansas City that did not receive the intervention.

"In addition, we found that smoking rates declined even more in people who said they'd heard of Grace Hill Neighborhood Services, the community agency we worked with," said Edwin B. Fisher, Ph.D., professor of psychology, medicine and pediatrics at Washington University and director of the Division of Health Behavior Research at the School of Medicine. "That seems to indicate that the agency's clientele — the people the program was most designed to help — did indeed benefit."

Ross C. Brownson, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Community Health at Saint

See **Smoking**, page 2

## Physician seeks disclosure of managed-care incentives

By LINDA SAGE

**W**hat if your lawyer got paid more if you received a smaller settlement? Or your mechanic reaped a bonus for withholding service on your car?

In an effort to contain health care costs, many managed-care companies reward doctors who restrict medical care. Such financial incentives should be disclosed to patients and consumer groups, said Thomas H. Gallagher, M.D., writing in the American Journal of Medicine.

"Disclosure might lead plans to be more cautious in the types of incentives they adopt," said Gallagher, a primary care physician and instructor in medicine at Washington University. "And it

might make patients scrutinize their doctors' recommendations more closely."

Financial incentives have long been part of medicine. The fee-for-service system encouraged doctors to provide more health care services, some of which might have been unnecessary. But managed care has brought new types of incentives. Some plans give doctors a year-end bonus if they haven't referred too many patients for specialty care or laboratory tests. Others withhold a certain percentage of salary if cost-containment goals are not met. Many plans also capitate services, paying doctors a set amount per patient regardless of the number of visits.

See **Care**, page 6



CAROL HOUSE

**Year of the Rabbit** Ushering in the Year of the Rabbit, members of the Chinese Student Association perform the "Stick-and-Handkerchief Dance" at the group's Chinese New Year Festival variety show "A View to the Past" Saturday, Feb. 6, in Graham Chapel. The dance goes back to the Tang Dynasty, when an emperor dreamed that he was in heaven and saw a group of fairies dancing. The show capped a weeklong celebration.





Senior Michael Burch and freshman Kelly Escoffery take in "The History of African-Americans in Missouri: 1719-Present," a traveling exhibit that serves as a pictorial history of African-Americans' struggle and triumph in Missouri. The exhibit, managed by the Black Archives of Mid-America Inc., was erected in the Campus Bookstore Saturday, Feb. 6, and will remain on display through Saturday, Feb. 13.

## Celebrating Black History Month

### Observance includes tributes, forum, performance

The ongoing campus commemoration of February as Black History Month includes a citywide tribute to diversity, an interactive forum and a student-produced performance of music and prose.

In honor of National Race Relations Day — Sunday, Feb. 14 — a tribute to racial and ethnic diversity will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, in the St. Louis City Hall Rotunda.

Delegates from the University's Discovering Common Threads: Black Women/Jewish Women Dialogue group — an interracial student dialogue organization — will participate in the city-sponsored event, which is open to the public.

For more information, call Laurie Goldberg, associate director

of St. Louis Hillel Center, at 726-6177, or Shanelle Henry, coordinator for multicultural education, at 935-5994.

The University's Black Men/White Men: Breaking Down Barriers group is sponsoring a forum titled "E-Racism," at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, in Friedman Lounge. The interactive discussion, which is open to the University community, will examine historical issues of racism.

For more information, call Tom Brunk, a counselor in Student Health and Counseling Services, at 935-5980.

The Black Anthology ensemble will present a program of prose and music titled "The Black Continuum" at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in Edison Theatre.

Featuring performances by

University African-American students, "The Black Continuum" will embody a variety of works focusing on black issues through history, including those by author James Weldon Johnson, poet Magdalena Gomez, playwright Richard Wesley, and author/poet Ntozake Shange.

LaMonica Carpenter, a senior majoring in finance, is director of the program. Lori Crawford, a senior majoring in psychology, is coordinator.

Tickets cost \$6 for all students and Washington University faculty and staff, and \$8 for the general public. Group rates also are available.

For more information about tickets, call the Edison Theatre Box Office at 935-6543. For more information about the program, call 935-5994.

## More Y2K computer help available

The Software Library (TSL) at Washington University has set up a web page to help members of the University community deal with potential Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problems.

Located at <http://wugate.wustl.edu/~tsl/y2k.html>, the site is made up of links to web pages with a variety of Y2K information. Sources include:

- General sources with information that applies to more than one vendor, along with guidelines issued by the University and other institutions.
- Web sites specific to individual computer brands and operating systems, such as Microsoft, Apple, Sun and the like. These sites cover

topics related to hardware and the operating systems that make the hardware run.

Application program web sites for software programs handled by TSL.

Don Blair, associate director of TSL, noted that many programs used on campus might not be listed in the third category. Users of these programs should check with vendors about the software's Y2K compliance.

TSL is a University office providing centralized software purchasing to take advantage of volume discounts and "site license" savings. A current listing of its offerings is available at <http://tsl.wustl.edu/info/catalog.html>.

## Smoking

### Neighborhood programs get 'gratifying' results

— from page 1

Louis University, evaluated the smoking cessation program. "Smoking rates in African-American communities are at alarming levels, so it is important to try to replicate any program that has been successful. And this one was very successful," Brownson said.

Fisher said African Americans are at increased risk from tobacco partly because of cigarette marketing in the United States and partly because of lingering racism and inequality in society. Many

advertising campaigns equate cigarette smoking with independence and prosperity — attractive notions to people who are more likely to be economically or socially disadvantaged, he pointed out.

Fisher and colleagues, public health researchers from the state of Missouri and the staff of Grace Hill Neighborhood Services designed a program that would give smokers input into the shape of their smoking cessation program. The audience was low-income African Americans in North St. Louis neighborhoods, and the program was modeled after similar programs the researchers had organized for various businesses.

"When we put together worksite programs, we decided that instead of bringing in a dog and pony show, we needed to help people develop their own promotional campaigns and activities to encourage and support each other as they tried to quit smoking. Those programs worked better when the workers themselves were involved in designing them," Fisher explained. Similarly, Neighbors for a Smoke Free North Side formed Wellness Councils in neighborhoods.

The program also created a City-Wide Council, made up mostly of African Americans, which connected project leaders with key individuals and resources in the

community and advised the Wellness Councils. A Nuts 'n Bolts Committee composed of university researchers, staff from Grace Hill Neighborhood Services and staff representing the Wellness Councils carried out the main planning.

"We know that the traditional medical model of service delivery is not always effective in low-income, minority communities," said project director Wendy F. Auslander, Ph.D., associate professor of social work at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. "A peer-delivered program seems to hold more promise, not only for smoking but for many disease-prevention programs."

The Neighbors for a Smoke Free North Side program included

regular meetings as well as ads and stories in African-American newspapers and on radio stations popular in the neighborhoods. A major event, called a Gospelfest, brought together youth choirs from several neighborhood churches. Each choir chose one song it particularly liked

and performed a second piece dealing with smoking. The concert drew 800 people to a church in one of the target neighborhoods.

To evaluate the success of the meetings, concerts and other activities, the investigators conducted random telephone surveys before the program began and after it had concluded. In addition to the general decline in smoking, they also found a steep decline in smoking among women younger than 35. The percentage of smokers in this group fell from 34 to 24 percent.

"That's a particularly gratifying number," Fisher said. "We are very concerned about smoking in women of child-bearing age, so the fact that their smoking rates declined is especially gratifying."

Brownson says the smoking cessation program could be widely applicable. "Many cities have agencies like Grace Hill, and I believe our program could be taken to those communities if the proper tailoring is done up front," he said.

**"Smoking rates in African-American communities are at alarming levels, so it is important to try to replicate any program that has been successful. And this one was very successful."**

ROSS C. BROWNSON

## News Briefs

### Study subjects sought

Investigators in the Washington University Medical Center's Cardiovascular Division are looking for participants with mild high blood pressure, ages 18 to 90, for a study on the effects of a government-approved drug for lowering blood pressure on blood vessel function. Participants must be healthy nonsmokers without diabetes or heart disease. The study will include five visits to the medical center during a period of about eight weeks. Qualified subjects will receive free medication and a free stress test. For more information, call 747-1217.

### Back to school

Help with communication, leadership and computer skills is available through the Training and Development Programs offered by the Human Resources Department. Registration has begun for the 1999 spring/summer session, and registration is allowed as late as five days before a course begins, space permitting. While many courses are free, some require a fee to be paid by the employee's department.

Class categories include enhancing leadership skills, improving interpersonal communication skills, maximizing performance results, navigating change, increasing PC productivity and effectively using information systems. A new category, taking action for

self-development, consists of four courses that cover topics such as proofreading, telephone skills and personal productivity. There are also new course listings for the Center for the Application of Information Technology. To request a catalog or to register, call 935-6970. The complete catalog is available at <http://cf6000.wustl.edu/hr/home>.

### Personnel perk

Washington University offers substantial tuition assistance to eligible dependents of full-time University faculty and staff. Dependents of full-time faculty and staff members who have completed five full years of current and continuous service receive 100 percent tuition remission at the University, provided they meet normal admission requirements. Additionally, children of full-time employees who have completed seven years of current and continuous service at the University can receive up to 50 percent of the University's stated tuition to attend another accredited college or university. In both cases, for the benefit to continue, the employee's eligibility must be maintained while the dependent attends school. And if an employee is eligible for this



**Campus quiz: Clearly this frog has observed campus events for a long time. Where is his vantage point? Answer below.**

benefit at the time he or she retires, goes on leave or dies, then the benefit is available to his or her dependents as well.

### Northern exposure

A growing number of American students are attending universities in Canada, in part because Canadian institutions are courting U.S. high school students aggressively, according to the Boston Globe. About 3,000 Americans are studying at Canadian universities this year, a 10 percent increase over the 1997-98 academic year.

*Our amphibian amigo has a bird's-eye view from the northeast turret of Brookings tower.*

"News Briefs" includes short items on a wide range of subjects, typically information about resources, benefits and opportunities available to faculty and staff. Readers are invited to submit briefs, which will be used as space permits, to Betsy Rogers, Campus Box 1070, or by e-mail, [Betsy\\_Rogers@aismail.wustl.edu](mailto:Betsy_Rogers@aismail.wustl.edu).

## Record

Washington University community news

### News & Comments

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## Medical School Update

### Directors appointed for new Division of Human Genetics

By LINDA SAGE

Two British researchers from Texas will direct the new Division of Human Genetics at the School of Medicine. Michael Lovett, Ph.D., and his wife, Anne Mary Bowcock, Ph.D., will arrive



Bowcock and Lovett: Couple to lead new division

soon from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where both are associate professors. Lovett is in the departments of otorhinolaryngology, molecular biology and oncology, and Bowcock is affiliated with the departments of internal medicine and pediatrics.

Robert H. Waterston, M.D., Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Professor and head of genetics, announced the appointments. "We hope that these very well-established geneticists will create an intellectual center for human genetics in the medical school and make Washington University a real leader in applying DNA sequence information to locating disease genes and discovering how those genes function," Waterston said. "The core facilities they will develop will benefit all of the people on campus who are involved in human genetics."

Waterston directs the medical school's Genome Sequencing Center, a major site for DNA sequencing. "Translating that know-how into studies of human

diseases will be one essential component in making the discovery of human disease genes faster and easier," Bowcock said.

Bowcock has localized several human disease genes, including the gene for familial partial lipodystrophy, a disorder characterized by abnormal distribution of body fat. She also tracked down a gene called *BARD1*, whose protein product forms a complex with that of the breast cancer gene *BRCA1*.

Lovett has developed tools for identifying large numbers of new genes from long pieces of DNA. His goal is to obtain new information about the distribution, evolution and expression patterns of human genes. He also is involved in collaborative studies of genes that cause bone defects and genes involved in hearing loss. Another collaboration focuses on the molecular basis of Cri-du-chat syndrome, in which loss of part of chromosome 5 causes severe mental and physical retardation.

Lovett and Bowcock cite three reasons for accepting the new position. First, the medical school has a large number of excellent clinical and basic researchers who are interested in and educated in human genetics. Second, it has the finest genome center in the country with a wealth of expertise in how to apply high-throughput methods to biological problems. Third, the University has a clear commitment to and understanding of where human genetics is heading and what it will take to get there. "We feel that the combination of these strengths is an irresistible argument for moving," Lovett said.

### Epstein-Barr Speck to study virus that causes mononucleosis and several cancers

Samuel H. Speck, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and of molecular microbiology, has received a five-year \$1.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute. The funding will support his studies of the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), which causes mononucleosis and several cancers.

Once people contract EBV, they remain infected for the rest of their lives, usually with few symptoms. But the virus is associated with the development of Burkitt's lymphoma in equatorial Africa and nasopharyngeal carcinoma in southern China. More recently, it has been linked to B-cell and T-cell lymphomas, Hodgkin's disease, thymic tumors and gastric cancer.

The virus can remain quiescent inside antibody-producing cells called B cells, occasionally reproducing its genetic material. Or it can suddenly become active, giving rise to new virus particles that burst their way out of cells. Speck is interested in how the virus chooses between these two options.

"A potential use of this research is to develop strategies to interfere with viral reactivation and replication," he said. "This might prevent the spread of the virus from individual to individual and perhaps prevent reactivation within a single person."

Speck's research focuses on a molecular switch that keeps the virus dormant when turned off and

makes the virus replicate when turned on. The switch controls expression of a gene called *BZLF1*, which codes for a protein called ZEBRA. This protein triggers the cascade of events that results in viral replication.

The molecular switch that regulates the expression of ZEBRA is a stretch of DNA, called a promoter, that precedes the *BZLF1* gene. It contains several short sequences or *cis* elements. When certain host proteins contact these elements, they flick the switch to off or on.

Speck has identified several *cis* elements in the *BZLF1* promoter and several host proteins that bind to them. The new grant will enable him to determine which of these cellular regulatory proteins are important and which pathways activate those proteins in response to events at the cell surface. For example, aggregation of antibody molecules present on the surface of infected B cells can trigger viral replication in certain cultured EBV-infected cells.

Speck also will investigate the regulation of a gene called *BRLF1*, which is adjacent to the *BZLF1* gene. The protein encoded by *BRLF1* acts in concert with ZEBRA to trigger viral replication.

"A detailed understanding of how viral reactivation is controlled is essential for understanding maintenance of latency," Speck said.

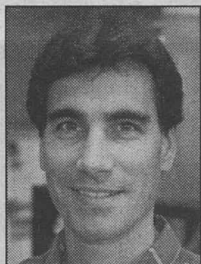


Honored Reka Kozak (left), a librarian at the medical school's Bernard Becker Library and BJC's Rothschild Medical Library, received an award for 25 years of service to the University from William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine (center), and Lee Fetter, associate vice chancellor and associate dean for administration and finance. Fifty central administration employees received service awards Friday, Feb. 5, at an employee appreciation luncheon and reception in the Eric P. Newman Education Center.

### Pediatrician Joseph St. Geme receives prestigious infectious diseases award

Joseph W. St. Geme III, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, has received the 1998 Squibb Award from the Infectious Disease Society of America.

"Joe St. Geme is an outstanding clinician-scientist-educator," said Alan L. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D., the Harriet B. Spoeher Professor and head of pediatrics. "His deep commitment to understanding the molecular pathogenesis of *Haemophilus influenzae*



St. Geme: Receives 1998 Squibb Award

disease in children will have a long-term impact on child health. We are delighted that his achievements to date have been recognized by the 1998 Squibb Award."

This award recognizes outstanding achievement in an area of infectious diseases by a fellow or member of the organization who is 45 or younger. The award is based on overall achievement, not a single study.

St. Geme, also associate professor of molecular microbiol-

ogy, is being recognized for his continuing research on the genetic and molecular basis of virulence by *H. influenzae*. This bacterium initiates infection by colonizing the upper respiratory tract, where it may hide inside epithelial cells for months. St. Geme has identified a series of proteins that enable the organism to interact with these cells, and his work has laid the foundation for development of vaccines to prevent middle ear and other respiratory tract infections caused by *H. influenzae*.

A physician at St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Geme also teaches microbiology and infectious diseases to preclinical students at the medical school. Among his numerous awards are the American Heart Association Established Investigator Award, the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society Young Investigator Award, the 1995 and 1998 St. Louis Children's Hospital Attending Teacher of the Year

Award and the March of Dimes Foundation's Basil O'Connor Award. He serves as associate editor of Concise Reviews in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Seminars in Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

He joined the University in July 1992 as an instructor of pediatrics and of molecular microbiology. He became an assistant professor of pediatrics and of molecular microbiology in September 1992 and was promoted to associate professor in 1997.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1979 and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1984, St. Geme completed residency training in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He served as chief resident in pediatrics at the same institution from 1987 to 1988 and was a postdoctoral fellow in infectious diseases and microbiology at Stanford University from 1988 to 1992.

**"His deep commitment to understanding the molecular pathogenesis of *H. influenzae* disease in children shall have a long-term impact on child health."**

ALAN SCHWARTZ

### Physicians investigating new treatment for chronic heel pain

Orthopedic surgeons at the School of Medicine are testing an investigational treatment for heel pain that uses a technique developed in the early 1980s to eliminate kidney stones. Washington University is one of seven sites in the United States and the only site in the Midwest currently participating in the study.

The study's principal investigator at the St. Louis site is Jeffrey E. Johnson, M.D., associate professor and chief of the foot and ankle service in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

"Heel pain can be caused by a number of different problems," Johnson said. "Arthritic conditions can cause soft tissue inflammation. Some patients may have trauma or a stress fracture of the heel. Others have painful nerve entrapment, but the most common cause of heel pain is plantar fasciitis."

The plantar fascia is a ligament-like structure on the bottom of the foot that supports the arch. Patients with plantar fasciitis typically have pain and inflamma-

tion at the site where the plantar fascia attaches to the heel bone.

Traditional treatments for heel pain range from modifying activity to soft-soled shoes or heel pads to surgery for patients with persistent pain. Johnson said, however, that the surgery does not always solve the problem and causes complications because it involves cutting the plantar fascia. The complications led foot and ankle specialists to continue searching for a non-surgical treatment that would leave the plantar fascia intact while providing more effective relief than other traditional therapies.

Lithotripsy was developed originally as non-surgical treatment for kidney stones. The machines use shock waves to crush the stones. The waves pass through tissue into the area where the kidney stone is located, and their vibrations crush the stone and break it into tiny pieces, which then are passed.

The investigational lithotripsy treatment for heel pain also uses

shock waves, but rather than crushing heel spurs like kidney stones, the orthopedic treatment attempts to create a small area of injury near the site where the plantar fascia attaches to the bone. That new injury is thought to attract new blood flow and other nutrients that promote healing and relieve pain.

To be eligible for the study, patients must have heel pain that has not responded to at least two prior treatments. The pain must have persisted for at least six months.

Patients in the study receive the shock wave treatment from a device called an OssaTron, a lithotripsy device manufactured by the HealthTronics company. The machine is owned by Midwest Stone Institute, a health-care company affiliated with the medical school.

Half of the patients get an actual treatment. The other half will be randomly selected to have a shield placed between the OssaTron machine and their foot so that the shock waves cannot enter the foot.

For more information about the study, call 1-800-371-9298.



# University Events

## Forest Trees • Millennialism • Child Welfare • Bedtime Stories

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place at Washington University through Feb. 20. For a full listing of medical rounds and conferences, see the School of Medicine's website at [medschool.wustl.edu/events/](http://medschool.wustl.edu/events/). For an expanded Hilltop Campus calendar, go to [www.wustl.edu/thisweek/thisweek.html](http://www.wustl.edu/thisweek/thisweek.html).

### Exhibitions

**"The Genius of Jean-Antoine Houdon."** Through March 21. Steinberg Hall. 935-4523.

**"The Getty Center: Photographs by Joe Deal, Models by Richard Meier."** Through March 21. Steinberg Hall. 935-4523.

**"International Abstraction: Art of the 1950s From the Washington University Collection."** Through March 28. Steinberg Hall. 935-4523.

**"Writers Reading Stein."** Through March 19. Olin Library Special Collections, fifth floor. 935-5495.

### Films

#### Thursday, Feb. 11

**6 p.m. Japanese Film Series.** "Shall We Dance?" (English subtitles). Room 219 Ridgley Hall. 935-5983.

#### Friday, Feb. 12

**7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series.** "Happy Gilmore." (Also Feb. 13, same times, and Feb. 14, 7 p.m.) Cost: \$3 first visit; \$2 subsequent visits. Room 100 Brown Hall. 935-5983.

**Midnight. Filmboard Midnight Series.** "Space Jam." (Also Feb. 13, same time, and Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m.) Cost: \$3 first visit; \$2 subsequent visits. Room 100 Brown Hall. 935-5983.

#### Thursday, Feb. 18

**6 p.m. Chinese Film Series.** "Myriads of Lights." Room 219 Ridgley Hall. 935-5983.

#### Friday, Feb. 19

**7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series.** "Kundun." (Also Feb. 20, same times, and Feb. 21, 7 p.m.) Cost: \$3 first visit; \$2 subsequent visits. Room 100 Brown Hall. 935-5983.

**Midnight. Filmboard Midnight Series.** "Ghostbusters." (Also Feb. 20, same time, and Feb. 21, 9:30 p.m.) Cost: \$3 first visit; \$2 subsequent visits. Room 100 Brown Hall. 935-5983.

### Lectures

#### Thursday, Feb. 11

**Noon. Genetics seminar.** "Genetics, Pathophysiology and Gene Therapy of the Lysosomal Storage Disease Mucopolysaccharidosis Type VII." Mark Sands, asst. prof. of medicine. Room 823 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3365.

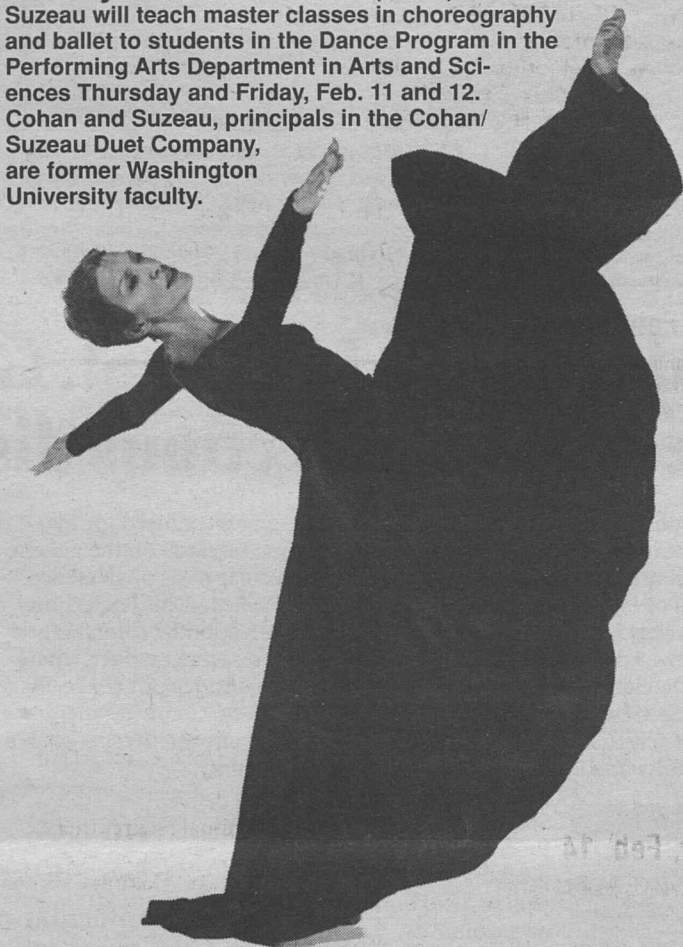
**1 p.m. Biology seminar.** "Patterns of Annual Seed Production by Forest Trees."

Inhibits DNA Replication." Thomas McGarry, Harvard School of Medicine. Room 801 Clinical Sciences Research Bldg. 362-3365.

**4 p.m. Chemistry seminar.** "Encapsulated Electroactive Molecules: Control of Electron Transfer in Redox-Active Supramolecules." Christopher Gorman, North Carolina State U. Room 311 McMillen Lab (coffee 3:40 p.m.). 935-6530.

**4:15 p.m. Philosophy lecture.** "The Origins of the Sensation/Perception Distinction." Margaret Atherton, prof. of philosophy, U. of Wis.-Milwaukee. Room 100 Busch Hall. 935-6670.

**Mastery Dancers Muriel Cohan (below) and Patrick Suzeau will teach master classes in choreography and ballet to students in the Dance Program in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences Thursday and Friday, Feb. 11 and 12. Cohan and Suzeau, principals in the Cohan/Suzeau Duet Company, are former Washington University faculty.**



Walt Koenig, prof., U. of Calif.-Berkeley. Room 212 McDonnell Hall (Hilltop Campus). 935-6860.

**4 p.m. Biology seminar.** "Experimental Evolution of Myxobacterial Development and Sociality." Gregory J. Velicer, biochemistry dept., Mich. State U. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

**4 p.m. Cardiovascular research seminar.** "Geminin: An Unstable Protein That

**5 p.m. Vision science seminar.** "Complement Regulation and Intraocular Inflammation." Nalini Bora, research asst. prof. of ophthalmology and visual sciences. East Pavilion Aud. 362-3365.

#### Friday, Feb. 12

**9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds.** "Lung Transplant for Cystic Fibrosis." Eric

Mendeloff, asst. prof. of surgery. Clopton Aud., 4952 Children's Place. 454-6006.

**11 a.m. Computer science colloquium.** "Decoupled Delay and Rate Guarantees for Cross Domain Thread Scheduling." David K. Y. Yau, asst. prof. of computer science. Room 509c Bryan Hall. 935-6160.

**Noon. Cell biology and physiology seminar.** "Non-Classical Maturation and Secretion of the Yeast Mating Pheromone A-Factor." Susan Michaelis, cell biology and anatomy dept., Johns Hopkins U. Room 426 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3964.

**Noon. Division of Gastroenterology conference.** "Trophic Factor Control of Enteric Nervous System Development." Robert Heukerth, instructor in pediatrics. Room 901 Clinical Sciences Research Bldg. 362-3365.

**1 p.m. Biology seminar.** "An Experimental Adaptive Radiation of Myxococcus Sociality." Gregory J. Velicer, biochemistry dept., Mich. State U. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

**4 p.m. Anatomy and neurobiology seminar.** "New Approaches to Shape Analysis and to the Reconstruction and Representation of Cortical Surfaces." David C. Van Essen, Edison Professor of Neurobiology, head, anatomy and neurobiology dept. Room 928 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3362.

**4 p.m. Hematology Division seminar.** "Allosteric Regulation of Thrombin by a Monoclonal Antibody That Binds to Exosite II." Douglas M. Tollefsen, prof. of medicine and asst. prof. of biochemistry and molecular biophysics. Room 8841 Clinical Sciences Research Bldg. 362-3365.

**8 p.m. The Writing Program Reading Series.** Visiting Hurst Professor Carol Bly reads from her work. Room 201 Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall. 935-7130.

#### Saturday, Feb. 13

**9 a.m. Saturday morning neural sciences seminar.** "Series: Neurophilosophical Investigations: Explanation in the Neurosciences: The Heuristics of Decomposition and Localization." Bill Bechtel, prof. of philosophy. Erlanger Aud., McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3362.

**11 a.m. University College Saturday Seminar Lecture Series.** "Millennialism in Early Christianity." J. Patout Burns, Thomas and Alberta White Professor of Christian Thought. Goldfarb Aud. 935-6788.



#### Sunday, Feb. 14

**3 p.m. School of Architecture lecture.** "Lecture on Walter Burley Griffin." Paul Kruty, prof., U. of Ill.-Urbana/Champaign. Steinberg Aud. 935-4636.

#### Monday, Feb. 15

**10 a.m. Center for Mental Health Services Research seminar.** "Child Welfare: Focus on Young Adults Leaving This Service Sector of Care." Curtis McMillen, asst. prof. of social work. Room 333B Goldfarb Hall. 935-5687.

**Noon-1 p.m. Molecular biology and pharmacology seminar.** "Extracellular Matrix-Associated Signals in Vascular Development." Robert Mecham, Alumni Endowed Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology. The Philip Needleman Library, Room 3907 South Bldg. 362-2725.

**Noon. Neurology/neurological surgery research seminar.** "Mechanisms of Repression of Apoptosis." John Cidlowski, Natl. Inst. of Health. Schwarz Aud., first floor, Maternity Bldg. 362-3362.

**4 p.m. Biology seminar.** "Genetic Dissection of Light Signal Transduction Pathways in Arabidopsis." Michael M. Neff, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Calif. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

**6:30 p.m. School of Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series.** "Rethinking Institutions: Architecture, Infrastructure and the Grotesque." Sheila Kennedy, assoc. prof. of architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design and principal, Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Boston. Steinberg Aud. 935-4636. See story on page 6.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 16

**Noon. Asian Art Society lecture.** An illustrated lecture by Alison Wright, photojournalist. Winifred Moore Aud., Webster U., Webster Groves, Mo. 935-5156.



**Noon. Biology seminar.** "Unraveling Genetic Interactions Between Multiple Signal Transduction Pathways." Michael M. Neff, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Calif. Room 212 McDonnell Hall (Hilltop Campus). 935-6860.

**Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series.** "Murine Gamma-Herpesvirus 68: Developing a Mouse Model of Gamma-Herpesvirus Infection." Samuel Speck, assoc. prof. of pathology. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3692.

**4 p.m. Anesthesiology research seminar.** "Information Processing Strategies in the Primate Cerebral Cortex, With and Without Anesthesia." David C. Van Essen, Edison Professor of Neurobiology, head, anatomy and neurobiology dept. Room 5550 Clinical Sciences Research Bldg., fifth floor, 4939 Children's Place. 362-3362.

**4 p.m. Chemistry seminar.** "Random-Diblock Copolymers: Synthesis and Characterization." Steve D. Smith, Procter & Gamble. Room 311 McMillen Lab (coffee 3:40 p.m.). 935-6530.

**4 p.m. Writing Program Reading Series colloquium.** Visiting Hurst Professor Carol Bly. Room 201 Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall. 935-7130.

**7:30 p.m. Fine Arts slide lecture.** "Illicit Objects of Worship." Ben Katchor, artist and writer. Steinberg Aud. 935-4643.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 17

**6:30 a.m. Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.** "The Long Nerves and the Pathogenesis of Airway Disease." J. Julio Perez Fontan, assoc. prof. of pediatrics. Wohl Aud. 362-6978.

**8 a.m. Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds.** "Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis." Joe Leigh Simpson, prof. and chair of obstetrics and gynecology, Baylor College of Medicine. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-1016.

**8 a.m. Orthopedic surgery seminar.** "Building an Orthopedic Practice." Lew Bennett, Danek Inc. J. Albert Key Library, 11300 West Pavilion, Barnes-Jewish Hosp. 747-2803.

**10:30 a.m. Economics seminar.** "Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: Three Essays Evaluating the Ability of Individuals to Influence Collective Choices." Dino Falaschetti. Room 300 Eliot Hall. 935-5670.

**11 a.m. Assembly Series.** "The Making of a Geisha: Forging a Cultural Identity." Arthur Golden, author. Graham Chapel. 935-5285. See story on page 5.

**Noon. Orthopedic surgery research seminar.** "Matrix Gene Expression in a Mouse MCL Healing Model." Rick W. Wright, instructor in orthopedic surgery, and Mitchell Botney, asst. prof. of internal medicine. J. Albert Key Library, 11300 West Pavilion, Barnes-Jewish Hosp. 747-2803.

**7:30 p.m. School of Art slide lecture.** Diana Thater, visiting artist, UCLA and Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, Calif. Steinberg Aud. 935-8664 or 935-7497.

#### Thursday, Feb. 18

**Noon. Genetics seminar.** "New Mutagenesis Strategies for Revealing Gene Function in Mice." John Schimenci, biology dept., Jackson Lab. Room 823 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-7072.

**2:30 p.m. Biomedical engineering/mechanical engineering joint seminar.** "Biomechanics of the Larynx." Siddarth

## Composer Philip Glass to give concert

In recent years the name Philip Glass has become virtually synonymous with avant-garde American music. St. Louis music lovers will be treated to a rare solo piano concert when the famed minimalist composer comes to Edison Theatre for a one-night-only show at 8 p.m. Feb. 19.

The program includes a series of works composed for solo piano

of Chicago, where he majored in mathematics and philosophy.

Glass graduated four years later and moved to New York, where he entered the Juilliard School and studied under Vincent Persichetti, Darius Milhaud and William Bergsma. At the age of 23 he moved once again, this time to Paris, where he studied with Nadia Boulanger and supported himself, for a time, by translating the music of Indian sitar player Ravi Shankar into Western notation. The exposure to Indian compositional techniques soon led Glass to explore other world music, particularly that of North Africa and the Himalayas, all of which would come to influence his own compositions.

Glass has composed dozens of major works, including opera, film scores and works for dance. His egalitarian instincts also have led him to explore the world of pop music. At the same time, Glass has completed commissions for leading classical venues, including the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. Most recently, Glass has undertaken a trio of projects with Robert Wilson including "White Raven," an opera commissioned by Portugal to celebrate its history.

Tickets are \$23 and are available at the Edison Theatre

### Philip Glass

Where Edison Theatre

When 8 p.m. Feb. 19

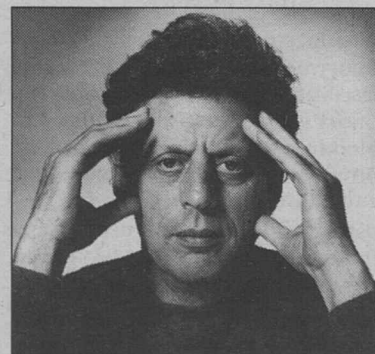
Tickets \$23 at the box office, 935-6543, or through MetroTix, 534-1111.

Box Office, 935-6543, or through MetroTix, 534-1111. Call for discounts. The performances are sponsored by Edison Theatre's OVATIONS! Series. For more information, call 935-6543.

### Pre-concert dinner will honor Glass

Prior to Philip Glass' OVATIONS! concert Feb. 19, a dinner in his honor will be held at the Whittemore House. The dinner, which begins at 5:30 p.m., will feature a short presentation on Glass' work by Claude Baker, composer in residence at the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and a professor at the University of Indiana, Bloomington.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. For more information or to register, call Aly Abrams at 935-4478.



**Glass:** Famed minimalist composer at Edison Theatre

as well as several arrangements for organ or instrumental combinations. Selections span the gamut of Glass' career, from the 1976 work "The Fourth Knee Play" through such recent compositions as "Etudes" (1994-95).

Glass has been at the forefront of cutting-edge American music for close to three decades. Born in Baltimore in 1937, he took up violin at age 6 and flute at 8. At 15 he was admitted by the University

## Lutheran Campus Ministry benefit set for Feb. 19

Billed as a "Biblical, musical, inspirational and entertaining way to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ in familiar language," the production "The Gospel of Love According to Broadway" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Forsyth and Big Bend boulevards, University City, to benefit the multi-campus outreach of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Relating parables from the American musical theater will be show-creator the Rev. Richard Preis, a retired Lutheran pastor and an accomplished community theater performer. He will present core Biblical teachings through 19 classic Broadway songs from "Camelot," "Oliver!" "Cabaret," "A Chorus Line," "Carousel," "Fiddler on the Roof" and other musicals.

A free-will offering will be received. For more information, contact Pastor John Lottes at 863-8140.



Khosla, fellow, laryngology and voice disorders. Room 100 Cupples II. 935-7096.

**4 p.m. Biology seminar.** "Genomic Imprinting Disruptions and Growth Control in Peromyscus Interspecific Hybrids." Paul Vrana, molecular biology dept., Princeton U. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

**4 p.m. Earth and planetary sciences colloquium.** "Influence of Uranyl Phases on the Alteration of Spent Nuclear Fuel and the Migration of Radionuclides." Dave Wronkiewicz, asst. prof., geology and geophysics, U. of Mo.-Rolla. Room 112 Wilson Hall. 935-5603.

**4 p.m. East Asian Diasporas Colloquium Series.** "New Spiritual Homes: Religion and Asian Americans." David R. Yoo, Claremont McKenna College, Calif. Room 331 Social Sciences and Business Bldg., U. of Mo. 516-5753.

**4 p.m. Economics/urban issues seminar.** "The Tiebout Hypothesis and Majority Rule: An Empirical Analysis." Holger Sieg, Duke U. Room 300 Eliot Hall. 935-5670.

**5 p.m. Vision sciences seminar.** "Lens Epithelial Expression of AlphaA-Crystallin, a Molecular Chaperone with Diverse Functions in the Lens." Usha Andley, assoc. prof. of ophthalmology and visual sciences. East Pavilion Aud., Barnes-Jewish Hosp. Bldg. 362-3362.



Friday, Feb. 19

**8:30 a.m. Olin School of Business seminar.** "Global Supply Chain Management: Challenges, Opportunities, and Successful Practices." Panos Kouvelis, prof. of operations and manufacturing management. Cost: \$100, includes continental breakfast and lunch. Room 112 Simon Hall. To register, call 935-7398.

**9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds.** Hypoglycemia: The Limiting Factor in the Management of Diabetes." Philip E. Cryer, Irene E. and Michael M. Karl Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

**11 a.m. Systems science and mathematics seminar.** "Hub and Spoke Model." David Cox, Scott Air Base. Room 101 Cupples II Hall. 935-6001.

**Noon. Cell biology and physiology seminar.** "Molecular Mechanisms of the Circadian Clock in Mammals." Gregor Eichele, Max-Planck Institute, Germany, and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

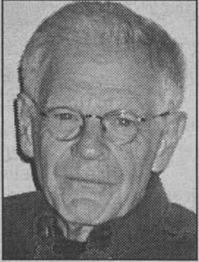


Scholar 'Crossing the Arts' in seminar

Herbert S. Lindenberger, the Avalon Foundation Professor of Humanities in Comparative Literature and English at Stanford University, will present the second annual William H. Matheson Seminar in Comparative Arts at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in Room 300 North Brookings Hall.

Lindenberger, who was the 1997 president of the Modern Language Association, will speak on "Crossing the Arts: Interchange, Encroachment, Union." The lecture is sponsored by the Committee on Comparative Literature in Arts and Sciences.

Lindenberger is the author of "Opera in History: From Monteverdi to Cage" (1998), "The



Lindenberger: Former University professor

History of Literature: On Value, Genre, Institutions" (1990) and "Opera: The Extravagant Art" (1986), among other volumes. A former professor of German and English at Washington University, Lindenberger has received numerous honors and awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships.

The lecture is presented in memory of William H. Matheson, professor of comparative literature, who taught at the University from 1970 to 1996. A distinguished poet and translator, Matheson taught courses on almost 100 different topics, including narrative and drama, lyric poetry and cross-cultural themes.

Room 426 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-2254.

**1 p.m. Biology seminar.** "Peromyscus as a Model System and Future Research Directions." Paul Vrana, molecular biology dept., Princeton U. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

**4 p.m. Neuroscience biweekly seminar.** "Why Hunger, Depression and Choices are Related, and What Do Glia Have to Do With It All?" Joel Price, prof. of anatomy and neurobiology. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3362.

**Saturday, Feb 20**

**9 a.m. Saturday morning neural sciences seminar.** "Series: Neurophilosophical Investigations: Perception-Action Spaghetti." Andy Clark, prof. of philosophy. Erlanger Aud., McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3362.

**11 a.m. University College Saturday Seminar Lecture Series.** "Time Trials: Millennial Anxieties From 1000 to 2000 A.D." Gerhild Scholz Williams, prof. of Germanic languages and literatures. Goldfarb Aud. 935-6788.

Music

Friday, Feb. 12

**8 p.m. Graduate recital.** Music of Strauss, Dvořák, Poulenc and Barber. Mary Wilson, soprano, and Henry Palkes, piano. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

**Sunday, Feb. 14**

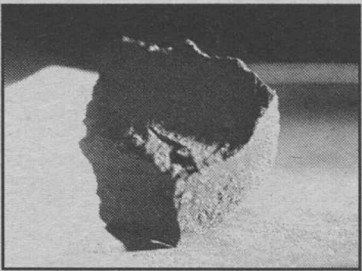
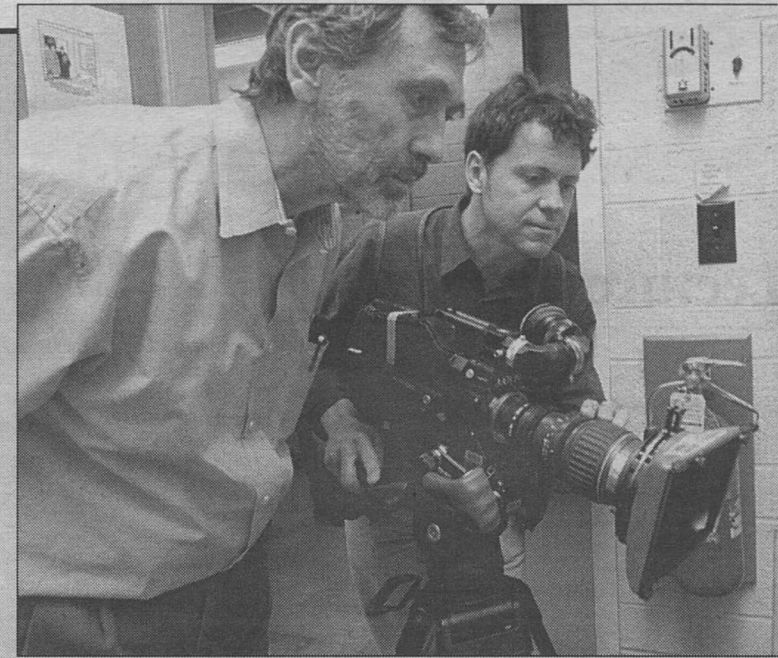
**3 p.m. WU Wind Ensemble.** Dan Presgrave, dir. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

**Friday, Feb. 19**

**8 p.m. OVATIONS! Series performance.** Philip Glass, solo piano. Cost: \$23. Edison Theatre. 935-6543. See story on page 4.

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

**8 p.m. Senior honors recital.** "A Cycle of Song Cycles." Music of Martinu, Vaughn Williams, Schumann and Ibert. Nathan Ruggles, baritone, and Henry Palkes, piano. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.



DAVID KILGER

**Australian connection** Ernst K. Zinner, Ph.D., a pioneer in the analysis of stellar dust grains in primitive meteorites, shows an Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) film crew member a sample from the Murchison meteorite. ABC, which is producing a one-hour documentary on the sun, was at the University's McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences last week interviewing Zinner. The inset is a close-up view of the meteorite, which fell in Australia in 1969. Zinner is a research professor of physics and of earth and planetary sciences and a fellow of the McDonnell Center, all in Arts and Sciences.

Performances

Friday, Feb. 12

**8 p.m. Performing Arts Dept. performance.** Susan Sontag's "Alice in Bed." (Also Feb. 13, 18, 19, 20, same time, and Feb. 14, 3 p.m.) Cost: \$10; \$8 for faculty, staff, students and senior citizens. A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. 935-6543.

Miscellany

Thursday, Feb. 11

**7:30 p.m. Feminist reading group meeting.** Arthur Golden's "Memoirs of a Geisha." Room 220 Busch Hall. 935-5102.

Sunday, Feb. 14

**8:30 p.m. Campus Y's Cultural Celebration.** "Cross-Cultural Bedtime Stories." William H. Danforth, chairman, Board of Trustees. Friedman Lounge. 935-8365 or 721-3403.

Monday, Feb. 15

**4 p.m. Campus Y's Cultural Celebration.** "Taste of the World." Green Chairs, Mallinckrodt. 935-8365 or 721-3403.

**8 p.m. Black History Month forum.** "E-Racism." Interactive discussion. Friedman Lounge. 935-5980

Tuesday, Feb. 16

**7:30 p.m. Campus Y's Cultural Celebration.** "Cross-Cultural Healing Fair." Friedman Lounge. 935-8365 or 721-3403.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

**8 p.m. Campus Y's Cultural Celebration.** "International Coffeehouse." Hawaiian Polynesian Revue. Gargoyle. 935-8365 or 721-3403.

Thursday, Feb. 18

**7:30 p.m. Campus Y's Cultural Celebration.** "Disabilities Awareness Fair." Friedman Lounge. 935-8365 or 721-3403.

Carnegie Mellon U. Athletic Complex. 935-5220.

**8 p.m. Men's basketball team vs.** Carnegie Mellon U. Athletic Complex. 935-5220.

Sunday, Feb. 14

**1 p.m. Men's basketball team vs.** Emory U. Athletic Complex. 935-5220.

**3 p.m. Women's basketball team vs.** Emory U. Athletic Complex. 935-5220.

Sports

Friday, Feb. 12

**6 p.m. Women's basketball team vs.**

'The Making of a Geisha' topic of Assembly Series lecture

Arthur Golden, author of the best-selling novel "Memoirs of a Geisha," will deliver the University's annual Neureuther Library/Cultural Celebration Lecture, titled "The Making of a Geisha: Forging a Cultural Identity" at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, in Graham Chapel. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"Memoirs of a Geisha" became a national bestseller and received high critical acclaim. The novel spans nearly 60 years and tells the story of its main character, Sayuri, in the form of her memoirs. Sayuri, who is sold to a geisha house when she is nine, becomes one of Japan's most celebrated geishas. Golden traces Sayuri's life from her childhood of poverty to her transformation into a celebrated geisha. Director Steven Spielberg



Assembly Series

**Who** Novelist Arthur Golden

**Where** Graham Chapel

**When** 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17

**Admission** Free and open to the public

in Japanese history from Columbia University, where he also learned Mandarin Chinese. Following a summer at Beijing University, he worked in Tokyo, and after returning to the United States, earned a master's degree in English from Boston University.

For more information, call 935-5285.

Sports Section

Women's basketball wins 27th straight

The women's basketball team made it 27 wins in a row and 19 straight this season with a 92-46 win Sunday, Feb. 7, at the University of Rochester. The 19-game winning streak this season is the longest in-season winning streak in school history, and the 46-point victory margin is the largest of the year for the Bears.

The team, now a perfect 8-0 in the University Athletic Association (UAA), led 43-19 at the half and pushed the lead to 57-19 with a 14-0 run to start the second half.

Junior Alia Fischer led all scorers with 16 points in just 18 minutes of play. Senior Jana Herrmann had her biggest day as a Bear, tallying a career-high 14 points on 6-of-10 shooting—including just her second career

three-pointer—and tying her career high of six rebounds. Junior Sue Tucker scored 11 points as all 13 players broke into the scoring column. The Bears return home for a pair of UAA games this weekend. The Bears will host Carnegie Mellon University Friday, Feb. 12, before matching up with Emory University Sunday, Feb. 14. Emily Nolan and Herrmann will both be honored Sunday at 1999 Senior Day.

Hoopsters lose, but stay in UAA first place

The men's basketball team had its six-game winning streak snapped with an 87-66 loss Sunday, Feb. 7, at the University of Rochester, but the Bears were no worse for wear. Washington U. still maintains a two-game lead in the UAA at 6-2 over Rochester (6-4) with six

games remaining on the schedule. Junior forward Dave DeGreeff led the Bears with 14 points and six rebounds versus the Yellowjackets, and sophomore forward Derek Laur added 11 points for the Bears.

The team played Rochester even in the second half (42-42), but could not overcome a 45-24 halftime deficit. The Yellowjackets, ranked sixth in the East Region by the NCAA, shot 54 percent for the game and made seven of nine three-point field goals in building their halftime lead. The Bears return home this weekend for games versus Carnegie Mellon (Friday, Feb. 12) and Emory (Sunday, Feb. 14). The second game will mark Senior Day for four Bears playing their final season here.

Runners pick up wins

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams traveled to

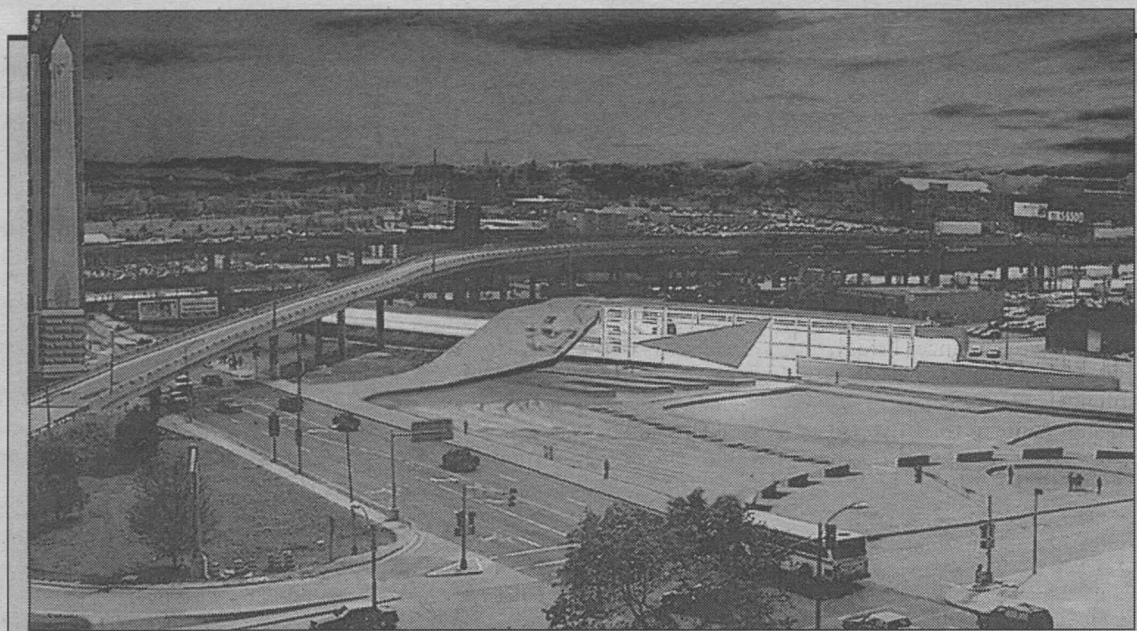
Terre Haute, Ind., last weekend for the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Invitational, and both came away winners. The women's team scored 196 points to outdistance second-place Emory by 45 points. The men's team tied with Rose-Hulman for first with 152 points.

The women's team was led by senior Emily Richard, who won the mile run in a time of 5 minutes, 12.96 seconds and took the win in the 3,000 meters at 10:12.05. Fellow senior Eileen McAllister set a school record, her second this season, by winning the 1,000 meters in a time of 3:02.34. Suzi Ramsey won the 55-meter hurdles for the third time in as many tries this season, covering the course in a time of 9.07 seconds. Julie Riley was tops in the pole vault, clearing a height of 9 feet, and Kristin Meade won

both the triple jump (35 feet, 3.5 inches) and the long jump (16 feet, 1.5 inches). Sophomore Julie Nebel set a school record with a throw of 42 feet, 11 inches in the weight throw to finish in second place.

The men were led by senior Jonté Greer, who picked up two wins and four top-five finishes. He won the 55 meters in a time of 6.69 seconds and was victorious in the triple jump with a leap of 45 feet, 1 inch. Greer was fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 23.92 seconds and fifth in the long jump with a distance of 19 feet, 1 inch. Other winners for the Bears were Dan Papajcik in the 500 meters (1 minute, 10.11 seconds), Travis Deutman in the mile run (4:28.10) and David Krantz in the pole vault (13 feet, 0 inches).





**Gateway hub** The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Associate Professor of Architecture Adrian Luchini, is slated for construction within the next year. Located at the southwest end of the Kiel Auditorium, the facility will include stops for light rail, buses and trains, as well as a restaurant and small shops. A tubular causeway will connect the 14,000-square-foot center with a proposed new Amtrak and Greyhound bus station. Luchini is design director for Sverdrup Facilities, St. Louis.

## Architecture series offers 17 lectures

### Renowned speakers will address diverse themes

From the headliners for a conference on the American city to the award-winning designer for the Tokyo International Forum, the School of Architecture's spring lineup for the Monday Night Lecture Series offers renowned national and international architects discussing diverse themes.

Sponsored by the architecture school and the Student Union, the 17 upcoming lectures will be at 6:30 p.m. in Steinberg Hall Auditorium. Unless otherwise noted, a 6 p.m. reception with the architect in Givens Hall will precede each lecture. Upcoming lectures in the semester-long series include:

- Monday, Feb. 15 — Sheila Kennedy, associate professor of architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design and principal with Kennedy & Violich Architecture in Boston, on "Rethinking Institutions: Architecture, Infrastructure and the Grotesque."

- Feb. 22 — Tom Heneghan, a recipient of the prestigious Japan Architectural Academy Award. A Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor at the architecture school, Heneghan will lecture on "Dances with Trees: A British Architect Builds in Japan."

- March 9 — Enrique Norton, director and principal of TEN Arquitectos in Mexico.

Norton is one of eight architects on the short list for the new Forum for Contemporary Art building in St. Louis, all of whom will lecture at the architecture school this spring as part of an ongoing collaboration with the school. The Forum, a non-profit arts organization currently located at 3540 Washington Ave., plans to relocate to a new building at the intersection of Spring and Washington avenues.

The series will continue with keynote speakers for a symposium titled "Design, Modernity and American Cities," which is being hosted by the architecture school's Institute for the Study of the Contemporary City March 11-13. The speakers are Peter Rowe, dean of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Alan Plattus, associate dean at Yale University School of Architecture; and Gwendolyn Wright, professor at Columbia University School of Architecture.

Other renowned speakers in the student-run series include:

- March 22 — New York artist Mary Miss on "The Art of Engagement." Miss, who is known for her large-scale public artwork, currently is working on a design for the plaza at the new federal courthouse in downtown St. Louis. The lecture is co-sponsored by the University's

Visual Arts and Design Center and the American Institute of Architects-St. Louis. A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Givens Hall.

- March 25 — Michael Pyatok, a San Francisco architect who teaches at the University of Washington in Seattle and specializes in high quality facilities for less advantaged client groups, public or subsidized housing, community centers and non-profit agencies. Pyatok, a Raymond E. Maritz Visiting Professor at the architecture school, will lecture on his recent work.

- March 29 — Distinguished Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa, former director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture and professor of architecture at the University of Technology in Helsinki. A Raymond E. Maritz visiting professor, Pallasmaa recently collaborated with Stephen Holl on the new Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki.

- April 19 — Award-winning New York designer Raphael Vinoly, FAIA, a member of the Japan Institute of Architects and an international designer of numerous civic, commercial and residential projects, including the Tokyo International Forum. Vinoly, who will deliver the Coral Courts endowed lecture, was recently selected as one of six finalists for the National World War II Memorial.

The series kicked off Feb. 8 with a lecture by the Museum of Modern Art's curator of architecture and design, Paola Antonelli. Architecture graduate students Monica Moore, Douglas Beck, Catherine Ho and Jenny Gossow make up this year's lecture committee. For more information, call 935-6200.

## Robots

### Algorithm solves long-standing problem

— from page 1

different height, which spun randomly on a rotating disk. The robot was programmed to pick up the objects in descending order, from tallest to shortest, and then place them in a pre-assigned place. A camera within the robot identified the object by height and told the robot which object to pick up.

The researchers placed an obstacle in the way of the robot, which, as programmed, immediately stopped its activity. When they removed the obstacle, the robot began its task again without human assistance and pursued the correct object.

The smooth transition was made possible by the Max-Plus model, which analyzes the real-time disturbances, communicates the problem to the high-level control, halts the robot, and tells it to proceed when the road is clear.

"What the model does is enable the robot to stop and think," explained Song, whose doctoral dissertation was based on the project. "Stopping is the key thing. It gives the machine time to 'think' and then feed back data to

the upper level."

"In this kind of situation today, an engineer goes into an emergency mode, pushes a button and stops the whole manufacturing process, because the robot will keep going as it had been told to, and you have a chaotic situation," Tarn explained. "This is very undesirable. But with our model, the algorithm knows where the robot is in the process, stops the robot and communicates the data to the high-level manager's computer. This way, you don't have to shut down the whole system, which is where the cost problem lies. The algorithm also enables the robot to re-start its task once the problem is corrected."

Many automated systems have computer codes installed that can deal with certain programmed malfunctions. However, the codes are heuristic, or rule-based: They can only deal with known manufacturing errors that have arisen before and have been described mathematically. But, as in the case of the stand-up comic, who knows what an audience is going to throw your way?

"Heuristic code does not begin to exhaust all problems," Tarn said. "This algorithm is all-purpose — it can deal with any unstructured event. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry."

## Care

### Physician encourages disclosure of incentives

— from page 1

Financial incentives could have two adverse effects, Gallagher pointed out. "If doctors withhold care that is really needed, patients' health care could suffer," he said. "But even if incentives do not affect patient care, they may create the perception of conflict of interest."

He said patients should be aware of incentives so they can become educated health-care consumers. And he urges health plans and doctors to disclose them when asked, in their own self-interest. "They should try to come up with ways to deal with patients' suspicions about managed care," he said.

Gallagher and his co-authors argue that voluntary disclosure would be better than federally regulated disclosure because it could adapt more quickly to rapid changes in the health-care industry. In 1990, for instance, Congress mandated more detailed regulations on financial incentives to physicians in Medicaid and Medicare, but these regulations did not take effect until Jan. 1, 1997.

The federal regulations ban incentives that limit necessary medical services to individual patients, but they apply only to referrals that physicians order but do not supply themselves. They also require managed-care organizations that contract with Medicaid or Medicare to disclose financial incentives that cover

referral services. These disclosures are made to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) or the state Medicaid office.

Managed-care plans also must disclose their financial incentives to Medicaid or Medicare patients who request this information, but they are required only to summarize a plan's incentives rather than provide information about a patient's own physician.

Gallagher and his co-authors pointed out that little is known about the effects of financial incentives on the quantity or quality of health care. "It is difficult to scrutinize care that has not taken place, and the technology to detect underutilization is not well developed," Gallagher observed.

The fact that health plans only need to disclose summary information is another problem, the authors said, because patients might not be able to determine which incentive, if any, applies to their doctors or groups of doctors. Without medical knowledge, patients also might be unable to assess whether financial incentives are influencing their doctors' judgment. Consumer groups could play an important role, but they currently cannot access enough information.

The authors recommend that HCFA use its market power to promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could give preference to health plans that survey patients to determine whether financial incentives create the perception of a conflict of interest between doctors and patients.

Meanwhile, the authors recommend broader disclosure so that interested patients — even those not in Medicaid or Medicare — could obtain information about their own physicians. "If you learned that your health plan used an incentive you didn't like, you could change health plans," Gallagher said.

Broader disclosure also might make patients scrutinize their doctors' recommendations. "If you come to me with a hurt knee and I don't order an MRI," Gallagher said, "you might be more likely to obtain a second opinion if you knew I was getting a bonus for not making referrals."

Perhaps most importantly, broader disclosure could act as a deterrent. "Plans might be more cautious in the type of incentives they adopt if they feel as if those incentives would be disclosed publicly," Gallagher suggested.

## Employment

Use the World Wide Web to obtain complete job descriptions. Go to [cf6000.wustl.edu/hr/home](http://cf6000.wustl.edu/hr/home) (Hilltop) or [medicine.wustl.edu/wumshr](http://medicine.wustl.edu/wumshr) (Medical).

### Hilltop Campus

Information regarding positions may be obtained in the Office of Human Resources, Room 130, West Campus. If you are not a WU staff member, call 935-9836. Staff members call 935-5906.

**Administrative Assistant** 990119  
**Director, Arts and Sciences Annual Fund/ Director of Development, Olin Library** 990120  
**Researcher** 990122  
**Department Secretary** 990124  
**Switchboard Operator** (part time) 990143  
**Administrative Assistant** 990144  
**Apartment Referral Service Coordinator** 990145  
**Receptionist** 990146  
**Assistant Records Manager** 990147

**Public Service Coordinator** (part time) 990152  
**Accounts Payable Representative Trainee** 990153  
**Associate Director, Annual Giving Programs** 990156  
**Secretary** 990157  
**Earth and Planetary Sciences Library Assistant** 990158  
**Director of Executive Education Programs** 99159  
**Associate Dean and Director, Weston Career Resources Center** 990160  
**Department Secretary II** 990161  
**Auxiliary Enterprises Project Manager** 990165  
**LAN Engineer** 990167  
**Library Technical Assistant (Serials)** 990168  
**Private Grant Specialist** 990169

**Publications Editor** 990170  
**Information Technology Manager** 990171  
**Residential College Director** 990172  
**Dept. Secretary** 990173  
**Administrative Assistant** 990175  
**Administrative Secretary** (part time) 990177  
**Department Secretary** 990179  
**Personal Computing Support Specialist** 990182  
**Senior Shelving Assistant** 990185  
**Deputized Police Officer** 990186  
**Olin Publications Editor/Writer** 990187  
**Administrative Coordinator, External Relations** 990188  
**Retirement Benefits Manager** 990191

### Medical Campus

This is a partial list of positions at the School of Medicine. Employees: Contact the medical school's Office of Human Resources at 362-7196. External candidates: Submit resumes to the Office of Human Resources, 4480 Clayton Ave., Campus Box 8002, St. Louis, Mo. 63110, or call 362-7196.

**Technician** 990584  
**Technician** 990610  
**Reimbursement Supervisor** 990939  
**Data Analyst** 990943  
**Surgical Coding Coordinator** 990956  
**Financial Operations Manager** 990959  
**Lab Technician** 991002  
**Programmer Analyst II** 991010  
**Clinical Therapy Technician** 991013

## Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police from Feb. 1-7. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 935-5555. This release is provided as a public service to promote safety awareness and is available on the University Police Website at [rescomp.wustl.edu/~wupd](http://rescomp.wustl.edu/~wupd).

### Feb. 3

2 a.m. — A student in Umrath Residence Hall reported receiving two harassing e-mails from an unknown source. An investigation by residential computing and police is continuing.

11:12 a.m. — An electrical contractor's van was stolen from Shepley Drive in front of Rutledge Residence Hall between 10:30 and 11 a.m. The keys had been left in the ignition.

### Feb. 4

9:24 a.m. — A staff member reported that someone stole a VCR, valued at \$980, from an unlocked classroom in Eads Hall.

University Police also responded to eight additional theft reports, four vandalism reports, one report of assault, one peace disturbance, one drug violation and one trespassing incident.



## Notables

### Of note

**David Bensinger**, D.D.S., dean emeritus of the School of Dental Medicine, has been named to the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame College in Belmont, Calif. Bensinger, who now lives in San Francisco, is a 1943 College of Arts and Sciences graduate and served on the dental school faculty for some 45 years. He also is a member of the board of the Institute of International Education, which manages Fulbright scholars throughout the world. ...

A participatory installation by **Pier Marton**, senior lecturer in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences, recently was featured in an exhibition titled "The Beautiful Jew: Images of the 'Jewish Body' in Myth and Ritual" at the Jewish Museum in Vienna, Austria. ...

**Craig K. Reiss**, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and director of Washington University Cardiology Consultants, was included in the St. Louis Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list. This list honors individuals younger than 40 who have demonstrated community commitment, enterprise and strong business performance. ...

**Lynn Stockman Imergoot**, assistant athletic director and women's tennis coach, recently was inducted into the St. Louis Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Among the accomplishments for which she was recognized were initiating the University's women's intercollegiate athletic program in 1975, achieving 300-plus victories as coach of the women's tennis team, receiving University Athletic Association "Coach of the Year" honors four times and serving as a voice for equitable treatment for women athletes. ...

**Murray L. Wax**, Ph.D., professor emeritus of anthropology in Arts and Sciences, received the Spindler Award for excellence in the anthropology of education. The award was presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia. The award recognizes career achievements, including the monograph he co-authored, titled "Formal Education in an American Indian Community: Peer Society and the Failure of Minority Education," which was first published in 1964 and later reprinted, including in the Congress-

sional Record. His next book, "Western Rationality and the Angel of Dreams," is forthcoming with Rowman and Littlefield Publishers and due in spring 1999. ...

**David M. Zar**, instructor in electrical engineering, shared the award for "Best Paper for University Research" at the Mentor Users' Group Conference, held recently in Portland, Ore. **David Taylor**, a senior in electrical engineering, was co-presenter. Zar also was re-elected chair of the University Special Interest Group within the International Mentor Users' Group, an association of users who share ideas and discuss issues involving Mentor Graphics tools. Mentor Graphics is an industry-leading vendor of electronic hardware and software design tools to the electronics industry.

### Speaking of

Filmmaker **Pier Marton**, senior lecturer in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences, recently presented his work at the University of Southern California. The presentation was part of a conference titled "Eye and Thou: Jewish Autobiography in Film and Video," which was sponsored by the newly formed Institute for the Study of Jews in American Life. Marton was joined for a discussion of his work by Sander Gilman, the Henry Luce Professor at the University of Chicago. ...

**Glenn D. Stone**, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology in Arts and Sciences, was the invited speaker at a recent conference on indigenous agriculture held at Australian National University in Canberra. Stone gave two papers, "Advances in Intensification Theory" and "Agriculture and Agency in Africa."

### To press

A book co-authored by **Katharina Ladders**, Ph.D., senior research scientist in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences in Arts and Sciences, and **M. Bruce Fegley**, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences, titled "The Planetary Scientist's Companion" recently was published by Oxford University Press.

## Campus Authors

**Ursula W. Goodenough**, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts and Sciences

### The Sacred Depths of Nature

(Oxford University Press, New York, 1998)

For many of us, the great scientific discoveries of the modern age — the Big Bang, evolution, quantum physics, relativity — point to an existence that is bleak, devoid of meaning, pointless. But in "The Sacred Depths of Nature," eminent biologist Ursula Goodenough shows us that the scientific world view need not be a source of despair. Indeed, it can be a wellspring of solace and hope.

This eloquent volume reconciles the modern scientific understanding of reality with our timeless spiritual yearnings for reverence and continuity. Looking at topics such as evolution, emotions, sexuality and death, Goodenough writes with rich, uncluttered detail



about the workings of nature in general and of living creatures in particular. Her luminous clarity makes it possible for even non-scientists to appreciate that the origins of life and the universe are no less meaningful because of

our increasingly scientific understanding of them. At the end of each chapter, Goodenough's spiritual reflections respond to the complexity of nature with vibrant emotional intensity and a sense of reverent wonder.

(Excerpted from jacket cover)

A recent release available at the Campus Bookstore in Mallinckrodt Center on the Hilltop Campus or at the Washington University Medical Bookstore in the Olin Residence Hall. For more information, call 935-5500 (Hilltop Campus) or 362-3240 (Medical Campus).

## Stanley Spector, professor emeritus in Asian and Near Eastern studies, dies at 74

Stanley Spector, Ph.D., professor emeritus of Chinese studies in Arts and Sciences, died of pancreatic cancer Friday, Jan. 29, 1999, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He was 74.

Spector came to the University in 1955 and served as chair of the Department of Chinese and Japanese (now Asian and Near Eastern languages and literatures) from its inception in 1963 until 1973. He also served as chair of the Committee on Asian Studies and as director of International Studies from 1971 to 1989. He was granted emeritus status in 1989.

Spector was active in building the East Asian Library within the University Libraries system and in the early 1960s developed Japanese and Chinese language programs in the secondary schools of St. Louis (the Mark Twain Institute).

He served as president of the Association of Chinese Language Teachers for two terms and as

president of the Midwest Conference on Asian Studies. In the later 1960s, he was director of the Washington-Waseda exchange program, in the course of which he served as an associate director of the International Division of Waseda University in Tokyo. He also was proud of his involvement in the establishment of "sister city" programs between St. Louis and Nanjing, China, in 1979 and with Suwa, Japan, in 1974.

Spector wrote two books in the field of modern Chinese history — "Li Hung-chang and the Huai Army" and "The Essential Mao" and co-edited "Guide to the Memorials of Seven Leading Officials of 19th Century China" and "Our Oriental Americans."

In honor of his accomplishments, the University established the annual Stanley Spector Lecture in East Asian History and Civilization in 1994.

Born in New York City in 1924, Spector received a bachelor's

degree in education in 1946 from the City College of New York. He served briefly in the U.S. Naval Reserves during World War II and subsequently earned a doctorate in East Asian history in 1954 from the University of Washington in Seattle, with additional study at the London School of Oriental and African Studies in 1950-51.

Among the survivors are his wife, Betty Spector; a brother, Bertram Spector of Juno Beach, Fla.; a daughter, Stephanie Van Denberg of Long Island, N.Y.; two sons, Lee Spector of Woodbury Heights, N.J., and Jon Spector of Atlanta, Ga.; two stepsons, Pat Lee Spector of Ladue and David Y.S. Lee of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Plans for a memorial program are being prepared for early April. For more information, call Debra Jones at 935-5156. Donations can be made to the Stanley Spector Memorial Fund, Box 1111, One Brookings Drive, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 63130-4899.



Spector: International authority on China

## Undergraduate wins prestigious national acting scholarship

William O'Hare, a senior in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences, recently won an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship — one of the most prestigious awards in college theatre.

O'Hare competed against more than 250 college actors from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota in the regional finals of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF) in Ames, Iowa. The award comes

with a \$500 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to the KC/ACTF's national festival — held April 19-26 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. — where O'Hare will have the opportunity to compete for further honors.

O'Hare was nominated for his performance as Bottom in William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last fall. In Ames, he performed Caliban's monologue from Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and a dialogue (with acting partner, junior Justin

Sund) from Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead."

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarships were founded in 1972 and are awarded to outstanding college actors from around the country. The scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the late Irene Ryan, who is probably best remembered for her portrayal of the feisty Granny Clampett in the television show "The Beverly Hillbillies."

## News Analysis

News Analysis contains excerpts from the For Expert Comment service. The service, which provides timely faculty comments to media across the country, is distributed by the Office of University Communications.

## Controversial book on breast cancer makes distressing claims, Mortimer believes



Dr. Bob Arnot, chief medical correspondent for NBC News, recently published a controversial book about diet

and breast cancer. Some scientists have called "The Breast Cancer Prevention Diet" misleading and unscientific, but some readers have praised it as informative and harmless. **Joanne E. Mortimer**, M.D., clinical director of the Division of Medical Oncology and associate professor of medicine and of medical oncology, argues against some of the recommendations in the book.

"I was dismayed to read Dr. Bob Arnot's new diet book for women. It makes the distressing claim that women can prevent breast cancer by following a diet that is high in soy, fiber, anti-oxidants, alpha-3 omega fatty acids and low in polyunsaturated fats and alcohol. "Arnot claims that eating soy products prevents breast cancer cells from being stimulated at sites on their surfaces called estrogen receptors, thus preventing cancer development. And he

hypothesizes that high fiber diets block the formation of 'bad estrogens,' whereas vegetables such as broccoli and bok choy promote the formation of 'good estrogens.'

"However, our bodies produce only one type of estrogen, which has more good effects than bad. It helps keep bones strong and reduces the risk of heart disease and dementia in women. In fact, many older women benefit from taking estrogen supplements to improve early symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and emotional irritability.

"In addition, not all women develop breast cancer that depends on estrogen for growth. For estrogen-dependent cases, Arnot correctly points out that two drugs that block the function of the estrogen receptor, tamoxifen and raloxifene, decrease breast cancer incidence.

"But the drugs have not been shown to prevent all breast cancers — only some of those dependent on estrogen for growth. And in the case of raloxifene, Arnot repeatedly misquotes its level of benefit. A study of elderly women who received raloxifene suggested that they were 55 percent less likely — not 90 percent less likely — to develop breast cancer than others in the study.

"A trial comparing the benefits and side effects of tamoxifen and

raloxifene will soon begin. Regardless of its outcome, it is unlikely that a diet focused on 'optimizing estrogen levels' will accomplish more, especially since there is no evidence that dietary estrogen can make up for long-term reductions in estrogen levels. Nor is there evidence that pesticides and herbicides increase people's risk of developing any cancer by having estrogen-like effects.

"Arnot has no experience treating women with breast cancer and cannot know the guilt and anxiety produced when someone 'believes' in his recommended diet, which may be healthy, but has not been proven to prevent breast cancer. I do care for women who read books like Dr. Arnot's and who might feel that they have brought this devastating disease on themselves by their food, alcohol and exercise choices.

"One in nine women in this country will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Those who believe Arnot's claim might discount the need for monthly breast self-examination and annual mammograms. And yet, until we truly can prevent development of breast cancer, early diagnosis and treatment are key to curing this disease."



## Washington People



Nancy Picker's ingenuity and resourcefulness have revolutionized operations in the chemistry department storeroom.

# Veteran staffer streamlines system

## Nancy Picker creates programs to track and share chemistry supplies

By LIAM OTTEN

**N**ancy Picker has angels looking out for her, half a dozen in fact, a colorful array that crowds her desk in McMillan 102. The hand-painted watercolors, done by her cousin Jerry Wilke, frame the window separating Picker from the crush of professors, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and undergraduates who rely on her daily for chemicals and supplies. Squinting through the cloudy glass, one can almost imagine a researcher's pale visage blending into that heavenly host — but it still doesn't explain why Picker's so unfailingly nice to them.

"I enjoy the rapport with chemists," Picker explained simply. "We have a very customer service attitude down here — we're here to make the research happen as quickly as possible. It's very satisfying when a customer is able to leave with the items they want."

For almost two decades Picker has served as the storeroom manager for the Department of Chemistry in Arts and Sciences — a more complex job than it might sound. The storeroom could more accurately be described as a University-wide scientific supply clearinghouse. With a staff ranging from three to five, depending on her allotment of work study students, and a purchasing budget well into six figures, Picker maintains an inventory of some 1,200 separate items, from office supplies and glassware to solvents and safety equipment. And that's not even counting the chemicals.

### Campuswide service

"The medical school, engineering — my customers come from all over the University," Picker said with a proud grin. "I run a very simple, hands-on kind of system that makes it easy for people to get the supplies they need."

Whatever Picker's doing, it seems to be working. More than two-thirds of her current 400-odd customers come from outside the chemistry department. In the last two years alone, her distributions to other departments have increased by 260 percent.

Picker was born and raised in Eau Claire, a small town in west-central Wisconsin, but came to St. Louis with her family the day after her 18th birthday.

She spent the next two years at

St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, where she planned to become a school teacher, but left before graduation to marry and begin a family. Within a few years she'd given birth to two sons, Tom and Brian, but separated from her husband by the time Brian was four.

"Statistics would have it that to be a single mom raising two boys is to have no chance of them turning out okay," Picker said with a slight smile. "But Tom and Brian were always good kids — well behaved, always very active in church. Both of them are college grads."

It was a convoluted — though, in retrospect, oddly logical — series of jobs that brought the young single mom to Washington University. Work as a defensive driving instructor segued into an assistant manager position at a

thought, oh golly Moses, where do I begin?"

Picker began by instituting a number of programs that dramatically lowered the costs — both in dollars and in waste — of doing chemistry. Her first program, Chem Share, came about when she realized that selling overstocks to her colleagues in other departments and at other universities — even at a loss — was less expensive than paying for storage, return or disposal. Returning \$20 worth of sodium, for example, might incur \$40 in shipping charges or \$150 in disposal fees. Chem Share not only saves the University money but ensures that, one way or another, the chemicals are productively used.

"One of my main objectives is to see that we're not wasting money or creating more waste,"

### Nancy Picker

**Born and raised** in Eau Claire, Wis.

**Education** St. Louis Community College

**Position** Manager, chemistry department storeroom

**Family** Husband, Steve Picker; sons, Tom, 27, and Brian, 25

**Interests** Wine making, for which Nancy and Steve have won several awards from the American Wine Society's St. Louis Chapter; sewing and crafts; reading mystery novels

**"This University works best when we give clever and creative people like Nancy a chance to try out their own ideas."**

EDWARD S. MACIAS

local car dealership which in turn led to a managerial position at a local graphics company. Picker was appalled at the state of the company's storeroom and, with typical gusto, took it upon herself to organize a computerized catalog of shipments and supplies. That experience led her, in 1981, to join the University staff.

"Walking in the door for the first time, and for years after, I felt very privileged," Picker recalled. "Wash U is such a big, prestigious university. And I thought, Lord, you got me here, now you've got to help me."

A big prestigious university perhaps, but one whose chemistry storeroom was in desperate need of Picker's help. "There were shelves full of stuff and no plan for keeping them organized," she said. "It was just all sitting there. And I

Picker explained. "I guess I'm creative that way. If there's a way of doing things more efficiently, that's when my brain kicks in with a plan."

Picker's most recent initiative began when one of her suppliers launched a bulk sales division. Picker agreed to become a beta tester for the new division, offering feedback and suggestions on packaging, shipping and other operations. In exchange, the chemistry department received dramatic discounts on various stock chemicals.

Picker's proudest accomplishment, however, is the Chem Search program, which she launched almost a decade ago.

"Occasionally a customer would need a small quantity of something or else need something in a hurry," she recalled. "Some-

times I'd remember ordering the same thing for someone else but not be able to remember who it was. It drove me nuts."

Picker explained that, at the time, there was no way to trace the location of a chemical after the user picked it up. Such information would be useful in a number of ways: A researcher requiring only a small test sample, for example, might be able to draw from another researcher's existing stock rather than placing a whole new order. Picker also knew that maintaining such information would bring the University into compliance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Right to Know Act, which had just been passed and required disclosure about the storage and location of potentially hazardous materials.

Picker's solution was remarkably elegant: if storage information was entered directly onto the purchase order, she realized, it could then be extracted via computer and uploaded into a separate data base. She presented the idea to her former boss, Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., who by that time had become provost.

"Nancy's idea was obviously so good that I was happy to help her get it going," recalled Macias, now executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts and Sciences. "This University works best when we give clever and creative people like Nancy a chance to try out their own ideas."

### Up and running

Macias put Picker in touch with the University's computer programmers. A few weeks later Chem Search was up and running.

"The program sorts chemicals by building, by room, by researcher," Picker said. "Before, we wouldn't be able to tell what was in a lab without a lot of work. Now we can quickly find out what's in every room in the department."

But if the business of science is serious indeed, the business of catering to scientists — well, let's just say it helps to keep a sense of humor. And for all her obvious dedication, Picker has not been above pulling the occasional tenured leg. In one prank, she informed a researcher with mock hysteria that the specially bred lab mice he had ordered were taking over the stockroom floor. Another researcher, picking up an order of bovine ovaries, was handed a carton of grocery store "Grade A" white eggs. (He did get his ovaries, if not the joke.)

High spirits are important to Picker. "When you have five or six people working out of one small office, you have to maintain a lighthearted, supportive attitude," she explained.

In all the sheer volume of stuff that passes Picker's way — from chemicals and computers to instruments and solvents — without a doubt her most important find was a decidedly personal one. Five years ago last July, Nancy was married to Steve Picker, a lab technician in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

"We met in the storeroom," Nancy said, beaming. "He was a regular customer for supplies and such for probably 12 years, so we knew each other long before we started seeing one another."

"He's still one of my best customers," she added with a grin.