

# Washington University in St. Louis

May 2003

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**HIGH RANKS:** The School of Medicine is tied for second in the nation, according to the latest *U.S. News & World Report* graduate and professional rankings. In all, *U.S. News* has ranked 18 of the University's graduate and professional programs in the top 10 of their respective fields.



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:** Bridging the gaps between the industrial and developing worlds in the complex, burgeoning area of intellectual property law is the focus of the School of Law's LL.M. degree in intellectual property—one of only eight such programs in the United States.

**PHILOSOPHICALLY FACING DEATH:** The shadow of death won't stop English professor David Hadas from teaching. After two surgeries to remove colon cancer, Professor Hadas decided to forgo chemotherapy treatments so he could continue teaching. To him, a life without teaching is hardly a life worth extending.

## Research

**ARTIFICIAL DISC REPLACEMENT:** Almost everyone will develop cervical disc disease at some point. University physicians are testing a treatment that involves replacing a diseased spinal disc in the neck with an artificial one.

**GENE MAP MILESTONE:** University researchers and other members of the International Human Genome Consortium have completed the Human Genome Project more than two years ahead of schedule. Knowing the order of the genetic building blocks will help scientists learn more about human development and disorders, perhaps launching a new age of discovery that will transform human health.

**SPEED LIMIT:** A University astrophysicist is disputing the claim that measurements of light bending are

useful for determining the speed of gravity.



A still from *Having a Ball*, one of three circus-themed e-cards by Kristine Ng. To communicate with blind users, the card employs prominent sound effects and embedded text descriptions. The bright, high-contrast color scheme also helps ensure that low-vision users can discern the image.

legitimate war crimes prosecutions much more difficult. Law professor Leila Sadat considers three options for bringing justice to Iraq.

## Features

**COUCH BABOONS**: Sure, the food you eat is important, but when it comes to the risk of obesity and diabetes, **food may be less important than exercise**. An international team of researchers studying baboons in Africa conclude a lack of exercise can have a significant negative impact.

**INCLUSION, NOT EXCLUSION**: The Internet began with an idealistically democratic ethos, promoting equal access for all. **As Web sites become increasingly glitzy, they are more difficult, if not impossible, for blind users to navigate**. School of Art students have created some of the first Web sites showcasing improved accessibility with the latest technology.

**WAR CRIMES**: **The war in Iraq could hamper the prosecution of the Iraqi regime**, making effective and

## Heard on Campus

"In a research university, the humanities are sometimes the thing that is needed to keep science from becoming inhuman."

- **Garry Wills**, Pulitzer Prize-winning American historian, at the April 1 Assembly Series lecture

## Kudos

One holds a Nobel Prize; another 13 Gold Gloves -- they will be among the six recipients of honorary degrees when Washington University holds its spring commencement exercises on Friday, May 16, in Brookings Quadrangle. The honorary degrees to be conferred are: **Madeleine K. Albright**, former U.S. secretary of state, doctor of humanities; **Herman N. Eisen**, professor emeritus in the Department of Biology at MIT, doctor of science; **Douglass C. North**, Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts & Sciences at Washington University and co-recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, doctor of science; **Ozzie Smith**, retired St. Louis Cardinals shortstop and holder of 13 Gold Gloves for his defensive skills, doctor of humanities; **William P. Stirtz**, former head of Ralston Purina Company, doctor of humanities; and **Blanche M. Touhill**, chancellor emeritus at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, doctor of humanities. [Read more!](#)

## Announcements

Planning to attend **Undergraduate Reunion Weekend 2003**? For more information about the activities scheduled for May 15 - 18, see the [Reunion](#) site.

**The School of Medicine's Reunion 2003** is May 8 - 10. For a complete schedule and online registration, visit the [Medical Alumni Reunion](#) site.

## **WUSTL Links**

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## **About @ Washington University in St. Louis**

This newsletter is prepared by the staff of the Office of Special Development Communications Projects and the Office of Alumni and Development Programs. It is intended to provide a summary of what is happening at the University. Alumni, parents, and friends of the University for whom we have valid e-mail addresses automatically receive @ Washington University in St. Louis as a service of the University.

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One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130  
(314) 935-5200