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strate their target language in a creative way. Abigail Carroll performed a monologue she had written in Arabic. Although the audience could not understand every word, Abi's passion stirred up the energy in the room.

Despite being a program all about languages, not all of the acts used verbal language. Instead, two language house members, Laura Sirbu of the French cluster and Anastasiya Filippova of the Russian cluster, communicated with the audience through the universal language of dance. They both showed off their impressive ballroom skills and transported the audience into two different cultures through movement and music.

The evening closed with an ode

to the Language House, written and performed by John Kronopolus of the Spanish cluster and accompanied by beatboxer-host Alex Gilden. Kronopolus mentioned every Language House cluster and what they, and some of their members, are known for in his incredibly thought-out rap. This performance, as well as the other acts performed throughout the night, highlighted the success of the Language House Program and the achievements of all of its members outside of academics. The event brought together members within clusters, as well as students from different clusters who performed together in one unforgettable experience: One Mic, One Dream, One Language House.

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istry-and then romance-between Mentor and mentee, it is difficult to assign blame to either party. Cupid, unfortunately, did not attend the Leaders meeting in the beginning of the semester where Dr. Liu explains the trials and tribulations that almost inevitably await Mentor-mentee couples. And Cupid does not have a knack for listening to experience or common sense.

But blame must be assigned, because although Cupid didn't go to that meeting, a Mentor did. And when a person becomes a Mentor, they must realize that they are inhabiting an administrative position, i.e. one of authority. There can be an inherent element of sexual appeal

to authority, especially with regards to the people under that authority. Taking advantage of this is ethically questionable. Such activity takes the authority appropriated by the Language House for academic purposes and subverts it for personal gain. Thus, Mentors are solely accountable for the negative consequences resulting from such prohibited conduct.

I do not envy Mentors in the Language House. They must tow the line-interacting with us essentially as peers, yet barred by the barrier imposed by title and contract. But such is the responsibility that comes with power; this is the burden of authority, and it must be dutifully borne.

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From the Files of Tanta-giorgio: Ameretto Cake

During an LGBT Conference in Rome, Tanta Riccardo and I met up Fabrizio and Giovan, a young Arcigay couple whom we had met in San Francisco. While dining at their fabulous modern condo near the Campo de Fiori, they served this delightful Amaretto Cake. Of course, I had to have the recipe. First, set up what you need:

- 1.spring form cake pan
2. one package each of vanilla and chocolate pudding (Jello cook and serve) ½ cup of amaretto liquor more if you are daring!(delicious at all times)
3. 1 or 2 packages of StellaD'oro amaretto biscotti available at local groceries
4. Cool Whip (whipped cream is really better but cool whip is okay).
5. Chocolate for shavings 1 quart of milk(I use half and half for richer pudding).

Begin assembling:

Make a layer of the biscotti in the pan. Now make the chocolate pudding using ¼ to ½ c. amaretto with enough milk to make 2cups. Follow directions on pudding box. When the mixture is smooth and simmering, pour it over biscotti. Make a second layer with the remaining biscotti. Do the same with the vanilla pudding. Put the "cake" in the refrigerator to chill for two hours or more. When chilled, spring the pan, leave the bottom of the pan under the cake. Now cover the sides and top with whipped cream or Cool Whip. Shave chocolate over the top of cake and serve. A nice alternative to Tirimisu. Fantastico Till next time, I remain, Tanta Giorgio

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Spanish Proverb: *Obras son amores y no buenas razones.*

Acts are love and good reasons aren't / Actions speak louder than words

Forbidden Fruit: A Language House Thou Shalt Not

By **Hariton Wilson**
Staff Writer

Having lived in the Language House for three and a half years, and having accumulated a wealth of personal experiences from all the people that have passed through the Language House's "revolving door", I would like to pose a few careful reflections about a phenomenon I have observed more than once. This interesting phenomenon is that of romantic relationships that occur between a mentor and a person within that mentor's cluster.

I am, for one, surprised at how rarely such relationships actually occur. For their foundation is beyond understandable. Place together a co-ed group of young, intelligent, aspiring individuals, complete with all the Language House activities that require this group to frequently interact, and you have the very stuff of romance. Add to the mix shared interests in language learning, and who can blame you for falling in love with one of the lovely people Dr. Liu has selected to be in your cluster? You have got to admit, she chooses desirable candidates.

So when there occurs chem-
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Tim Meehan of the German Cluster

One Mic, One Dream

By **Julie Bayer**
Staff Writer

The Language House held a spectacular Open Mic Night on April 3, 2014. The line-up consisted of members from different language clusters singing, dancing, reciting poetry, and even performing some comedy acts. The host, Alex Gilden of the Chinese cluster, went above and beyond introducing acts. Gilden entertained the audience with his charming jokes and karaoke skills. Another entertainer was Mondona McCann of the Persian cluster. McCann wowed, and maybe even shocked, some of the audience with her surprise performance of "How to Make a PB&J Sandwich."

Some of the more serious acts included Maria Cristina Monslave of the Spanish cluster performing a beautiful rendition of a political Argentinian song accompanied by a ukulele and Erica Wang of the French cluster singing a French song and playing the piano simultaneously. Some other musical acts were Ruth Vassilas and Dana Vockley from the Spanish cluster singing the adorable "Love is an Open Door" from the popular new film *Frozen*, and Shifra Erez from the Hebrew cluster singing and playing guitar to the, apparently, infamous Shakira song, *Inevitable*.

Open Mic Night also gave students an opportunity to demon-

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The National Cherry Blossom Festival is Here!

By Ronit Zelivinski

Staff Writer

Every year Washington D.C. celebrates the start of Spring with this beautiful event! Over 3,000 pink and white cherry trees will be in full bloom around the week of April 8th-April 12th 2014. The Cherry Blossom festival is not only a time to come take lovely photos by the tidal basin of the Potomac River, right around the Jefferson memorial, but it is a three-week long, citywide event that features a wide range of cultural performances, exhibits, and various

exciting special events. The history of the D.C. cherry trees goes back to 1912, when the people of Japan sent 3,020 cherry trees to the United States as a token of their friendship. In fact, the first two trees planted by First Lady Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador at the time, are still standing on 17th street near the John Paul Jones statue. This event has something fun for everyone! Come out this week to catch a glimpse of these beautiful trees and symbols of our nation's capital!

Hello from Austria: Meet Elaine

Grüss Gott! I'm Elaine, usually a part of the German cluster. This semester, I'm studying in Wirtschaftsuniversität (WU) in Vienna, Austria. The city is so charming, full of beautiful and old architecture. All the main places are accessible via the U-Bahn (metro system here), and it's very punctual. One of my favorite places here is Stephansplatz, the square in the center of the city. It is named after the famous Stephansdom, a cathedral built in a Roman-Gothic style. The roof is covered in multicolored tiles - the south side depicts a double-headed eagle that symbolizes the Habsburg dynasty. The north side boasts the coat of arms of the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria.

The WU campus is very modern, especially the library, which local students call "the spaceship." Apparently it was just opened last semester! WU held a competition for



architects to submit building ideas and selected a handful of the top designs. So every building on campus is designed by a different architect. WU is one of the first European universities to attempt creating a campus - generally European universities have academic buildings scattered across a city.

I love wandering around the city whenever I'm done with class. At the end of each day, I return to my apartment, tired, and looking forward to what the next day will bring. If you would like to contact me about Vienna, my email is elaine.oves@gmail.com.

Arabic: A gunman near Baghdad, kidnapped and killed at least 11 people in a deadly series of attacks.

Chinese: U.S. Defense Secretary, Chuck Hagel, is scheduled to get a tour of China's first aircraft carrier, becoming the first foreign visitor to go aboard the ship.

French: In recent elections, France's Greens have rallied record results. However, they have been bickering and the rift is weakening one of Europe's strongest ecology parties.

German: Andrea Petkovic, a 26-year-old tennis player, won the Family Circle Cup. Her first win in three years.

Hebrew: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet that he is ready to continue with negotiations, despite Sunday's angry accusations made by Israelis and Palestinians blaming one another for undermining the U.S.-led peace efforts.

Italian: Special operations forces arrested two dozen alleged secessionists suspected of planning a violent independence campaign.

Japanese: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed to comply with the international court order to halt Japanese whale hunts off Antarctica.

Persian: Ignoring death threats, Afghan men and women turned out in large numbers to vote in the presidential election.

Russian: Pro-Russia protesters seized state buildings Sunday in multiple cities in Ukraine, triggering accusations from pro-European government towards Putin.

Spanish: A morning fire killed ten people in a nursing home in southern Chile, including nine seniors and their caretaker on Sunday morning.

Baghdad Journalist Killed, Sparking Protests

By Catherine Tappert

Arabic Cluster

The death of Mohamed Bdaiwi, a professor of media at the University of Baghdad and journalist for Radio Free Iraq, has raised furor across Iraq in the past week. Mr. Bdaiwi was shot and killed at a security checkpoint near the residence of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani by a member of the president's military guard. The act of senseless violence has sparked protests across the country, primarily because of the ethnic dimension of the event. President Talabani is ethnically Kurdish, as was the member of the presidential guard who killed Mr. Bdaiwi. Soon after news of the killing broke, Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki arrived at the scene and vowed to arrest the perpetrator, using incendiary language like "blood for blood" which President Talabani later expressed regret over. Protests by Arab Iraqis against the Kurds, featuring the chant "no, no to the Kurds" continued for days around Baghdad and the southern regions of Iraq.

The vulnerability of journalists in Iraq could have been the focus following this event, but instead ethnic tensions between Arabs and Kurds were played up. As the campaign season in Iraq begins this April, Al-Maliki appears willing to use sectarian and ethnic tensions to drum up support for his campaign. Al-Maliki is running for his third consecutive term as Prime Minister.



Mondona McCann of the Persian Cluster Performing "How to Make a PB&J Sandwich" in Thursday's Open Mic-Night

Work Culture of the Federal Republic of Germany

By Sushmita Malik, Paul Massaro and Tim Meehan

German Cluster

Brace yourselves: Easter is coming. But not as we know it here in the good ol' U.S. of A. Germany, the "King of Christian Holiday Celebrations," is gearing up for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although Easter is not as large as Christmas for the Germans, it remains a major source for our own "American" holiday traditions. However, the Germans take it a step further which such events as the Eastern Holiday, where communities come together for a state-sponsored beer, pretzel [soft pretzels] and bratwurst celebration.

Indeed, the Germans celebrate many Christian holidays, including St. Nicholas' Day, Pentecost

and Ascension Day. In general, the difference between Christian holidays in Germany and in the USA is that religion is a crucial part of the culture and tradition in Germany. Whereas we have a strong traditional separation between the church and state, the German government recognizes, supports and sets aside federal days off for workers for Christian holidays. Moreover, there is a federal tax on people attending churches of all sects that goes back to support the institutions themselves.

Because religion is such a huge part of the tradition and culture, workers on average receive about 34 federal days off while we only get 10. Germany altogether has more vacation time per year than the USA. Therefore, we believe that the USA should follow in Germany's footsteps and set more religious holidays as federally-sanctioned paid days off.