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Student Life

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the PHOENIX

The Student Newspaper of Governors State University

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02 | 15 | 12



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not be ready
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orientation
be on
your college
application?**
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Recreational
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The empty stage before Wednesday's performance of *The Color Purple*. Photo by David Lipowski.

An Evening at the Theater

"The Color Purple" joins list of top-rate Broadway shows to grace Center's stage

By
Corrie Gray
Danyale A. Lucado

Annie, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Hairspray*, and now *The Color Purple*, with handclapping musical selections of gospel, jazz, and ragtime, becomes the latest of top-rated Broadway shows hosted by GSU's Center for Performing Arts.

Depicting Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker's story of two sisters separated by incest and abuse, *The Color Purple* was a theatrical hit with last Wednesday's sold out crowd.

Footstomping choreography and soul stirring vocal performances filled the center as an awe inspiring set design transported theatergoers from the fields of the rural south to the villages of South Africa.

Cast member Lessinger Grimes, who played the roles of "Pa" and "Grady" says no matter the size of the venue, every performance is like inviting the audience into your home.

"You give them your very best no matter what," he said. Grimes says the show is so appealing to him because from print, to film, to the stage, since its 1982 release, *The Color Purple* remains relevant and

has resonated with audiences time and time again.

"You will laugh and you will cry," he said. "It's a story that everyone can relate to."

Appearing for one night only, *The Color Purple* is sure to join the list of audience favorites performed on the Center's stage.

Now in its 17th season, The Center is quickly becoming the premiere venue for quality theatrical entertainment for the southtown area. Center Manager, John Cobb says the center is cutting advertisement to northside communities like Evanston and

Wilmette and focusing its reach on those who are most likely to attend the shows.

"I like those areas," Cobb said. "But it is highly unlikely that they are going to travel the distance to see a show out here."

Cobb says the

advertising dollars are now being spent on south suburban areas such as nearby Crete, whose residents are more likely to attend but don't know about the remarkably entertaining shows playing at the center.

Many local residents attended last week's sold out show, including mother and daughter, Teresa and Tiffany Johnson. "The show is just wonderful," they told us during intermission.

"You will laugh and you
will cry. It's a story
everyone can relate to."

-Lessinger Grimes

Continued on Pg. 5



Do you like to write?

If you have an interest in writing, journalism, or design, the *Phoenix* has a place for you!

The *Phoenix* Student Newspaper is looking for student contributors to help in making the *Phoenix* a success.

If you are interested, please contact the Phoenix office at **708-534-4517** or **phoenix@govst.edu**.

the PHOENIX

The **Phoenix** is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

Phoenix Student Newspaper

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Should students identify sexual orientation on college applications?

By Lauren Ashley White
Contributing Writer

In a historic move, Elmhurst College has become the first university in the United States to include in their application a question about minority status regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. The college already asked questions regarding ethnic identity, language spoken at home, and religious affiliation. As with other identity questions and minority statuses, it was up to the student to decide whether or not to answer the question.

While some students might find this question either intrusive or inappropriate, to those I say don't answer the question. Any person is well within their right to choose not to self-disclose. Any person as an individual has the right to hold a position that is contradictory to that of inclusion or view the inclusion of this question as contradictory to their beliefs about LGBT people. Publicly however, people are people. If a person's college experience can be enhanced with a community that values their diversity, I am all for it.

Fall 2011 was the inaugural application term for the new application with the question about LGBT status. Being a skeptic, I wondered if this was just a marketing ploy. Elmhurst is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a Protestant Christian denomination. The Chicago suburb of Elmhurst is located next to Wheaton, a suburb that houses another Christian university. Unlike Elmhurst, the university in the suburb of Wheaton requires students to sign a community covenant that condemns homosexual behavior.

For LGBT and questioning students, this can

be problematic to say the least. LGBT students have to reform their identity to comply with university standards. For questioning students, this can provide a hindrance for those students to explore their identity. From what I have read on the Elmhurst College website regarding the inclusion of this question as well as other things that Elmhurst College has participated in such as a college fair at the Center on Halsted (Chicago's LGBT community center), I don't think this is just a marketing ploy but an honest effort for diversity inclusion.

Unlike many other forms of diversity, LGBT status is not as visible. With this question on the Elmhurst application, the student who decides to answer the question can be provided with information about resources that may be of interest to the student as well as information about scholarships that promotes diversity. Many times LGBT students can get lost in the mix or become an underrepresented minority.

I hope that more universities move towards this model of diversity for the LGBT community. While LGBT status is still considered a controversial topic in this country, I think that universities, especially those who promote the liberal arts and social justice, should work harder for LGBT visibility and inclusion.

Although the city of Chicago, an ideal setting for many LGBT students, is just a stone's throw away, many students decide to either stay closer to home or find that the suburban campus is a better fit. LGBT voices need to be heard, especially in suburban and rural settings, and a decision like the one Elmhurst College made for their application to allow those students to be vocal in their expression of identity and minority status provides a model for that to happen.

"I think that universities, especially those who promote the liberal arts and social justice, should work harder for LGBT visibility and inclusion."

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Digital Learning: Are students ready for digital textbooks?

By David Lipowski
Associate Editor

Education is changing from old school (no pun intended) classrooms, hard copy textbooks, and chalk boards—to new school technologies, with online courses, interactive content, and heavy digital integration. This is increasingly noticeable in the area of digital textbooks.

Digital textbooks not only provide interactive content to help students with concepts—think videos and quizzes integrated with the material—but also have the ability to update out-of-date information instantly, not to mention the enormous cost savings to students. A mass integration could eliminate the infamously high costs of textbooks endured each semester.

So if the benefits of digital textbooks over their print counterparts are so numerous, where are they?

Although digital textbooks exist, widespread usage has yet to happen because of both the market's inability to find a viable system for doing so and because current college students are resistant to change.

Last month Apple released its iBooks 2 app which features a new ability to purchase textbooks for the iPad. In the first three days, they sold over 350,000 textbooks, a number which amazed analysts who were skeptical that Apple's move into textbook publishing would work well.

Some are now speculating that iBooks may revolutionize the market and become a new

standard of sorts in schools and colleges, doing for textbook publishing what they did for personal communication with the iPhone. Others are not so sure.

There are a variety of concerns, including that—even though iBooks textbooks are significantly reduced from their print counterparts—there is still the matter of buying the iPad which would run students at least \$500.

Other arguments against widespread integration of iBooks includes giving Apple too much control over the market and, on the collegiate level, it being simply impossible to publish digital versions of all the texts colleges currently use.

There are other platforms out there, such as eTexts, but so far not many of them have managed to captivate students and universities or offer significant savings from their print counterparts.

The GSU bookstore currently features a program called CafeScribe, available through the publisher Follett. The platform allows students to purchase a digital copy of certain textbooks and access information through a laptop or smart phone.

Bernie Bolz, manager at the GSU Bookstore, mentioned that CafeScribe “offers savings of 40 to 60 percent compared to purchasing a new textbook.” But in some cases, the savings are minor. For instance, a Psychology textbook available for \$54 in print costs \$32 for a digital rental. Savings are sometimes even nonexistent, such as the physical therapy textbook selling at \$92 for either print or digital.

A few textbooks, however, saw significant savings, such as a philosophy textbook. Students purchasing the print version through the bookstore payed \$171 while the digital rental was only \$80. Price, however, isn't the only issue.

Mary Beth Deppe, a Social Work major at GSU, did not know that a textbook for her class had a digital version available through the school bookstore. But Deppe says knowing about the digital version would not have changed her purchase. “I prefer to have the hard copy,” she said.

For a large number of GSU students, learning from textbooks is the way they have always approached education, and most seem reluctant to change especially when publishers have yet to figure out the most advantageous way integrate digital texts.

Continued on Pg. 6



Digital Learning will be a running series in the Phoenix this semester. If you have ideas for topics in the section, email the phoenix at phoenix@govst.edu

Open Position with The Phoenix

Are you a social media fanatic, who finds yourself "tweeting" and updating your status frequently? Are you interested in new media trends and online journalism?

The Phoenix Student Newspaper is looking for a new **Digital Media Editor**. The DME will be responsible for engaging the GSU campus community on our social media platforms as well as monitoring and loading content to the new Phoenix website.

The ideal candidate will be creative, flexible, and work well with others--enjoys social media interaction and stays connected with the latest online media trends.

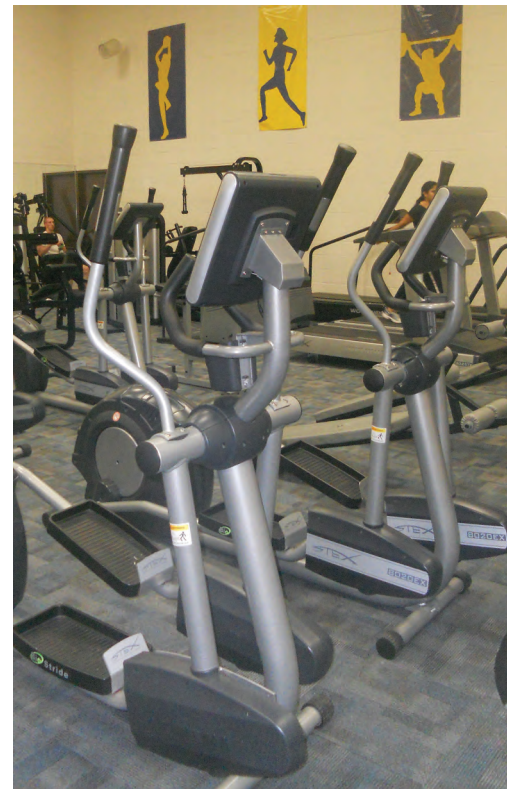
Must have regular and consistent access to mobile media via laptop and/or mobile phone, with ability to update Phoenix website and social media networks in cases of breaking campus news. The DME must be sensitive to the diversity of the GSU community and exercise sound judgement in the monitoring of interactive web postings.

Experience with web design, graphics, and digital media is a plus.

This position pays a student stipend and will provide the candidate with invaluable experience in the area of digital media. All staff members of the Phoenix must be enrolled in at least 6 hours at Governors State University.

If you would like to take advantage of this awesome opportunity, please stop by the Phoenix in room E1500 on Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30pm or email us at Phoenix@govst.edu.

Student Recreational Facilities



Top: GSU's Foosball Table.
Middle Left: The adjacent pool table. Middle Right: A training machine in the recreation and fitness center's fitness room.
Right: A lifeguard stands guard at the campus Olympic style pool.

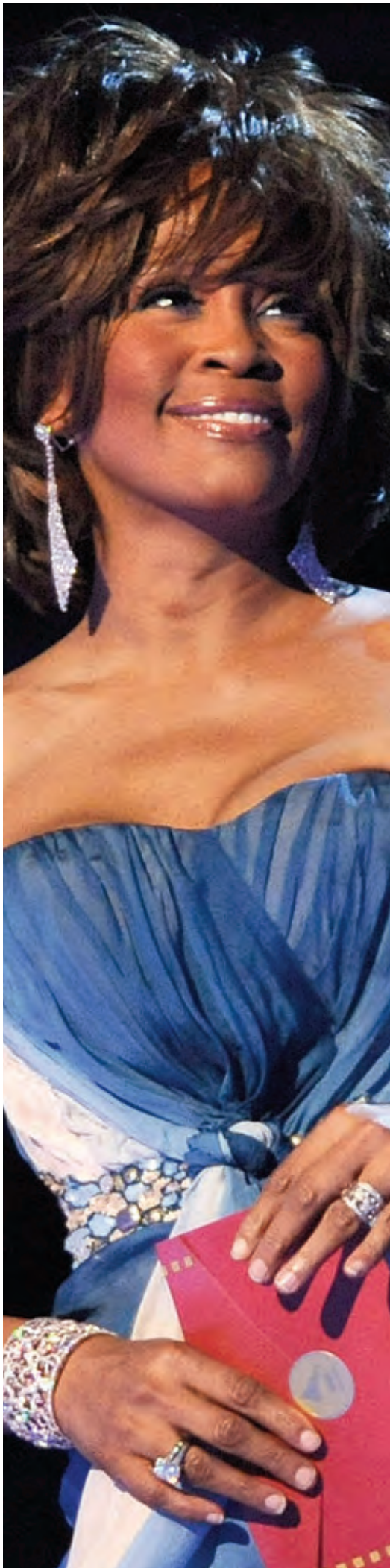
The GSU Recreation & Fitness Center, located in the A Building, offers these facilities along with others, including a racquetball court and a gymnasium. They are free to use for all currently enrolled students. The hours of operation are:

Monday–Friday:
6 a.m.–9 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday:
Noon–4:30 p.m.

Learn more on the GSU website.

Photos by Tom Mandel.





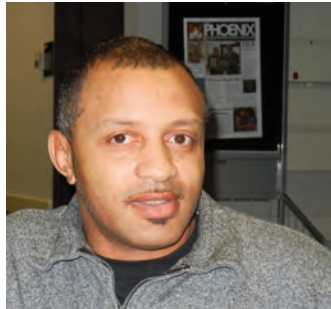
The passing of a vocal icon

In this issue of **“What Say U”** the GSU campus responds to the passing of international Pop and R&B vocal icon Whitney Houston



“When I was little I had a stuffed rabbit named ‘Hitney Houston’ (I couldn’t pronounce my h’s) because she was my idol. I loved the way she sang.”

-Devin Gomez
Criminal Justice Major



“We will remember Whitney Houston as a good mother and a beautiful role model for black women. She was an embodiment of the phrase: ‘We fall down, but we get back up.’”

-Russell Thomas, IDSS Major



“Whitney Houston was one of the most profound entertainers who meant a lot not only to the African American community but to the music world in general.”

-Allen Moore
Graduate Student in Painting & Drawing



“Whitney Houston was a talented performer, a giver and a humanitarian. She will be missed.”

-Antron Washington, IDSS Major

Whitney Elizabeth Houston was born in Newark, NJ on August 9, 1963 and began singing as a child at the New Hope Baptist Church.

Born to a musical family, she was the daughter of gospel singer Cissy Houston and cousin to soul singer Dionne Warwick.

Whitney Houston was a best-selling Pop/R&B artist from the mid 1980’s to the late 1990’s.

Some of her top selling singles were “How Will I Know,” “The Greatest Love of All,” “Saving All My Love” and the infamous “I Will Always Love You” from *The Bodyguard* motion

picture soundtrack, a film in which she starred alongside Kevin Costner. Houston won a total of 411 Grammy, American Music, MTV, Billboard and other awards throughout her career.

Her rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” set the standard for performing the national

anthem and has not been matched since its airing at the 1991 Super Bowl.

Houston was found unconscious in the bath tub of a Beverly Hills, CA hotel room on the eve of Sunday’s Grammy Awards. Efforts to revive her were unsuccessful. She was 48 years old.

Purple Continued from Pg. 1

The two say they frequent the south suburban theater quite often and hope to enroll in classes at GSU in the near future.

GSU Alum, Lois Marshall, attended the show with her neighbors. “I love the music, singing, and dancing,” said Marshall. “Especially the relationship between “Ceily” and her sister, they stuck together no matter what.”

With the center’s recent merger with GSU’s College of Arts and

Sciences, many students will soon have a more economic alternative to Chicago’s Columbia College for quality theater education. Theater-based classes such as Acting, World Dance, and Theater Appreciation are slowly being added to the GSU curriculum with a full theater major soon to be developed.

While the details of the theater program are still being worked out, the center continues its efforts to provide quality entertainment with in the midst of a weak economy and strict budgetary constraints.

The Center currently employs only 7 full time employees, including Cobb who serves as Center Manager and Interim Director,

while the search for a new director is vigorously underway, expecting to be completed by June.

All of the ushers working last week’s show were actually volunteers.

Usher Richard Rellis has been with The Center since the very beginning and says the first show he ushered featured a comedian, who was also an accountant from Chicago, by the name of Bob Newhart.

“It’s been fun,” said Rellis. “I have seen a lot of things that I ordinarily would not have seen.” The longtime volunteer says of all the shows his favorites are the Slate summer shows that are produced by the university and feature

regional talent from the area and local drama clubs.

The Center has more great shows lined up for the season including the “Opera Up Close” series featuring world class opera performers in an intimate cabaret setting (onstage seating).

The series includes Lift Ev’ry Voice and The Elixir of Love.

The Center also continues its “One More Night” series with productions from the eta Creative Arts Foundation, MPAACT, and the Silk Road Theatre Project.

To find out more about shows appearing at the center and discount prices for students, visit The Center’s webpage at www.centertickets.net.

Digital Learning

Continued from Pg. 3

This sentiment is reflected by sales at the campus bookstore. According to Bolz digital textbooks are being used by a relatively small percentage of GSU students at the moment.

“CafeScribe isn’t the best choice for everyone,” Bolz said. “Many factors influence a student’s course materials preference including what class you’re taking, how you learn and study as well as what fits in your budget.

Bolz says CafeScribe is just one component of the store's affordable ‘Bookstore of Choices’ model that includes a large selection of used and rental textbooks as well.”

Widespread use of digital course materials is definitely in the future of education, but for now, students at Governors State are able to choose the format that best suits their learning style and wallet. This allows older learners to continue to learn the way they know how, while younger learners or those more adaptive to technology are able to benefit from the advantages of new developments.

Learners should experiment with different methods of absorbing material, and should be encouraged to try a digital textbook. Some might find that they might even learn better with the different medium— and save a few dollars in the process.

Digital textbooks are out there—you just have to know where to look.

Solutions to crossword from page 8

P	O	S	E	D		A	L	T	S		D	A	I	S
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Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace 3D hit theaters earlier this month. 3D re-releases mean big bucks for the film industry, but deprive audiences of new, original movies.

3D remakes leave less room for original films

By David Lipowski
Associate Editor

On February 10, the insanely popular Star Wars franchise released “The Phantom Menace 3D,” into theaters. This was the first big screen production in the Star Wars series since 2005 with “Revenge of the Sith,” but unlike most movies that hit theaters, The Phantom Menace was not necessarily ‘new’—it was just in 3D.

For Star Wars fans, this is only the latest in a long series of “re-releases” in the franchise. The last was a Blu-Ray edition of all six films released last year that contained a number of tweaks to the films (including, but not limited to, blinking Ewoks).

For film-goers in general, however, the “Phantom” 3D release is part of a surfacing trend of 3D re-releases. This winter, the popular Disney animated classic “Beauty and the Beast” received the 3D treatment and on April 10, James Cameron’s “Titanic” returns just in time for the 100th anniversary of the disaster. (The “disaster” being the original sinking of the Titanic, which resulted in massive loss of life, not the 1997 film, which was one of the highest grossing movies of all time).

For a long time now, the film industry has attempted to make low-risk, highly profitable movies. Most movies these days take unspeakable sums of money (see Cameron’s other masterpiece—“Avatar” for evidence of that one) to make and no amount of financing will guarantee a film from flopping at the box office.

Just last year, the Disney film “Mars Needs Moms,” also in 3D, grossed only \$7 million on its first weekend—after costing \$175 million to

produce and market. The solution, the industry believes, is making films that audiences are guaranteed to go see. It is this principle we have to thank for the sequel frenzy appearing the last few years and the book and comic book adaptations, such as the Avengers movie coming out later this year, which is technically a continuation of “Thor,” “Captain America,” and “Iron Man” and “Iron Man 2”. Essentially, film makers are targeting an existing fan base rather than trying to develop a new one.

Re-releasing a film into theaters in 3D fits into this stratagem even more perfectly—these are films that people know, love, and would not mind watching again on the silver screen. And, as the general consensus seems to be that 3D, while nice, does not add a whole bunch to the experience (unlike other innovations in the movie world like color and sound), its more of a good excuse to revive them rather than the actual reason they are doing it.

What this means to audiences is that this summer’s line-up is going to look a lot like last summer’s line-up, as well as the summers from decades in the past. And while re-visiting previously covered territory may be pleasantly nostalgic, a method of introducing a new generation to classics, and, you know, absurdly profitable, it leaves less room for new, original concepts to hit the big screen.

It keeps new stories from being told and new universes from being created. And that might not be such a good thing. Except, of course, in the case of Star Wars. I would much rather re-watch Episode 1, in spite of all its faults, than see whatever new ways George Lucas can find to defile his saga.

Roles for student production “Stop Kiss” still open

Stop Kiss by Diana Son is being produced by graduate student Lauren White on the GSU campus this April 11th, 12th and 13th. Actors are needed for a number of on-camera scenes and since the production is taking a new, multimedia direction, a second round of auditions will take place.

Auditions will happen on an individual basis and students will meet with the director to read for appropriate role(s) appropriate for the student. Audition meeting times will be scheduled this week on the Governors State campus depending student availability. Students will have until this Friday the 17th to have priority consideration for these on-camera acting roles. After the 17th, students should contact Lauren White to see what roles are still available.

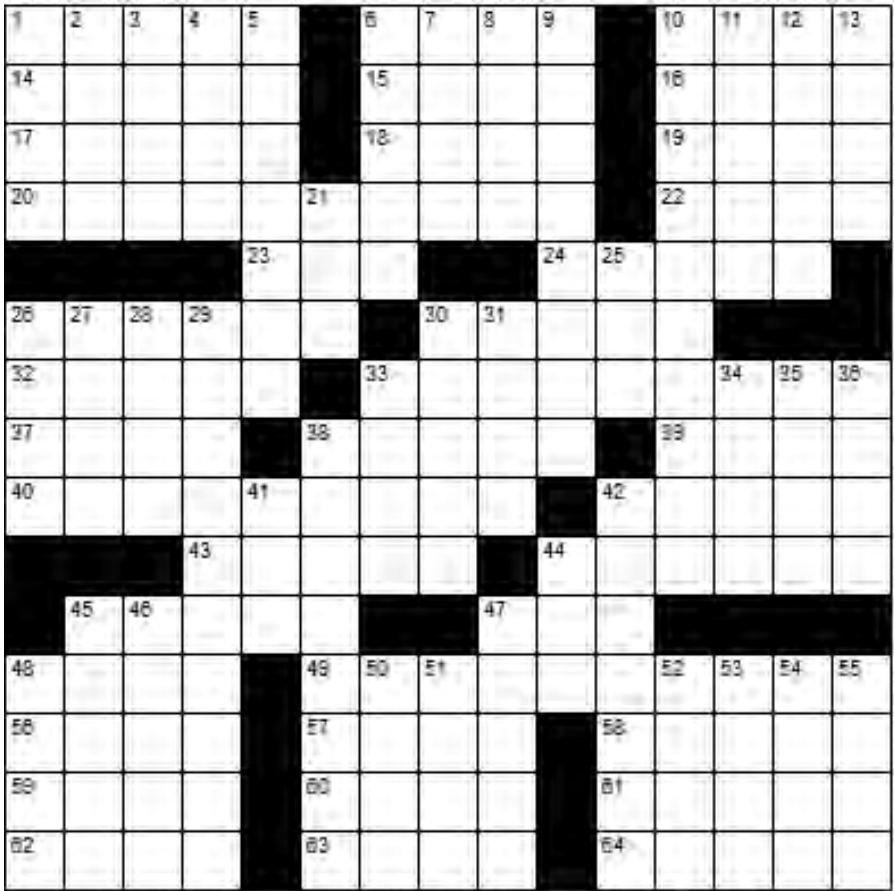
The first rehearsal meeting will take place at the end of February, with the project concluding by the first week of April depending on student and GSU facilities availability.

On-camera characters needed: Mrs. Winsley (female who looks between 40-70 years old); Detective Cole (male who looks at least 40 years old); Peter (male who looks between 21-36 years old); and Nurse (female any age).

The production team is also still looking to fill the role of Sara (between 21 and 36 years of age) for a live production of the project. The rehearsal process for this character is more involved and will have about two to three rehearsals a week. This student would also have to memorize about eleven (2-3 page) scenes. Availability for all three production dates is also required. The show will be performed April 11th, 12th, and 13th in the evening.

For those who are interested in working behind the scenes in a nonperforming role, the production is also looking for filming students to shoot the filmed scenes and stage hands for the live performance. If you are interested in any of the roles discussed above or have any other questions, please contact Lauren White via email at LWhite5@student.govst.edu.

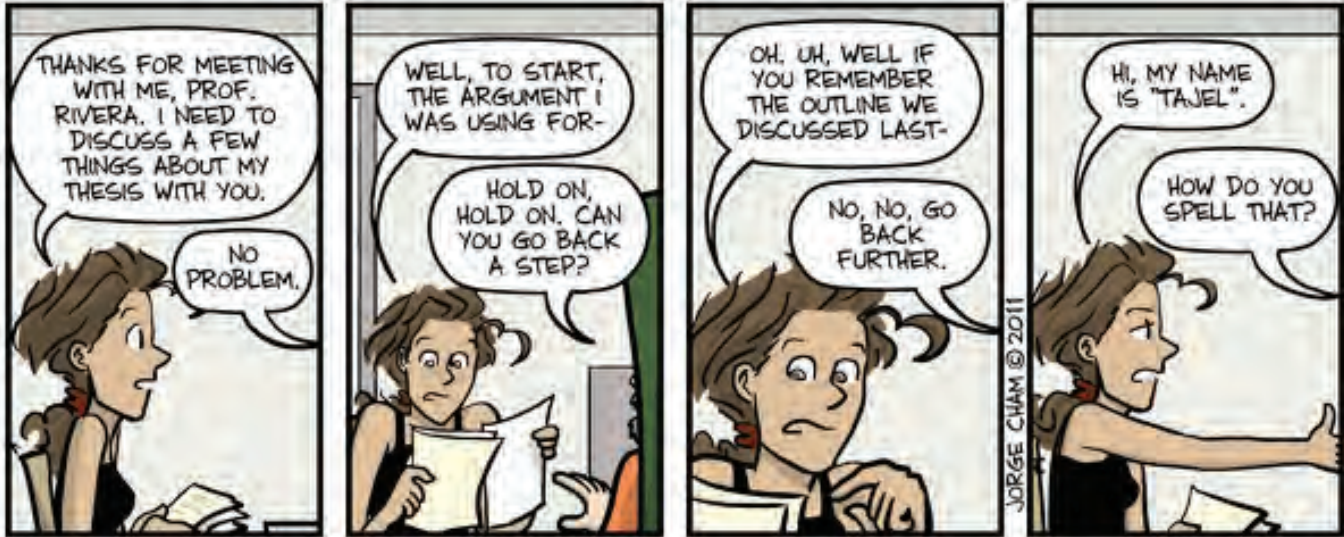
Crossword



- ACROSS
1. Modelled
6. Anagram of "Salt"
10. Speaker's platform
14. Enough
15. Masterstroke
16. Cocoyam
17. Make fun of
18. Be worthy of
19. Gangly
20. Pitiless
22. Type of sword
23. Nourished
24. Enumerates
26. A self-contained component
30. Scrimp
32. Hard wood
33. Triangular headsail
37. Coil
38. Unpaid
39. Boyfriend
40. A political system
42. Consecrate
43. Move forward suddenly
44. A Native American tent
45. Nigerian monetary unit
47. Mother
48. Friends
49. Control
56. Salt Lake state
57. God of love
58. Sweetener
59. Disabled
60. Colorful salamander
61. Lacquer ingredient
62. Trudge
63. Makes lace
64. Guys
- DOWN
1. A Maori club
2. Portent
3. Unwanted email
4. If not
5. Tick
6. Bitter
7. Unit of bread
8. Ballet attire
9. Correct letter order in a word
10. Abhorrent
11. Adjust
12. Runs in neutral
13. Only
21. C
25. Hotel
26. Blend
27. Double-reed woodwind
28. Bad end
29. Rough
30. Seasoning
31. Small
33. Booty
34. Retain
35. Leisure
36. Ploy
38. Decoration
41. Mongrel
42. Befuddled
44. Not bottom
45. Area of South Africa
46. San Antonio fort
47. Fogs
48. A mixture of cellulose fibers
50. District
51. Nothing (British)
52. Humdinger
53. Matured
54. Docile
55. Twin sister of Ares

Comics

PHD: Step Back



"PHD" ("Piled Higher & Deeper"), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. Updates occur about twice per week. To read more comics, head to www.PHDcomics.com

XKCD: The Important Field



Alt-Text: I hear in some places, you need one form of ID to buy a gun, but two to pay for it by check. It's interesting who has what incentives to care about what mistakes. "XKCD" is a webcomic "of romance, sarcasm, math, and language" run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to www.xkcd.com

GSU Happenings

Black History Month Film Series and Discussions

Tim Wise on *White Privilege, Racism, White Denial, and Costs of Inequality*
February 21
5 p.m.
Sherman Hall

Race: The Floating Signifier
February 22
5 p.m.
CPA Lobby

Money for Nothing: Behind the Business of Pop Music
February 23
5 p.m.
Sherman Hall

Business Grad Program Open House
March 3
9:30 - 11 a.m.
Cafeteria Annex

Campus Blood Drive

Monday February 20
3-7pm
E-Lounge